

Lebanese fight Easter Monday battle

BEIRUT (R) — Rival Christian forces fought with mortars, rocket-launchers and heavy machineguns for two hours on Easter Monday in what diplomats said was a prelude to all-out warfare for control of Lebanon's Christian heartland. Security sources said the battles between troops of General Michel Aoun and militiamen of the Lebanese Forces (LF) ignited huge fires in the Al Fihri in battered east Beirut and Zouk to the north. There was no immediate word on casualties. Diplomats told Reuters they expected full-scale war to start on Tuesday. The Easter battle had ended and numerous mediation efforts by Lebanon's Maronite Christian church and the Arab League had failed to end the conflict peacefully. At least 950 people have been killed and more than 3,000 have been wounded since fighting for the leadership of Lebanon's Christian community began in Jan. 31. The battles have devastated the Christian enclave, causing an estimated \$1 billion in damage. The diplomats said Aoun was organising his troops and training them for the expected battle.

Jordan Times

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جوردان تيمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Arab group to visit Moscow

TUNIS (R) — A delegation of Arab foreign ministers will go to Moscow next month, before the U.S.-Soviet summit, to voice their concern over the mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, an Arab League source said Monday. Vladimir Polakov, Soviet vice-minister of foreign affairs in charge of the Near East, discussed the visit with Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Kibbi, the source said. Polakov met Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in Tunis Sunday to hand him a message about recent talks between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. After his meeting with Kibbi, Polakov told reporters: "The interests of all the parties and international law have to be taken into account in the Middle East peace process." Israel has said that as many as 750,000 Soviet Jews could immigrate over the next five years, raising fear that many of them will settle in the Israeli-occupied territories. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev have scheduled a summit in the United States for late May.

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Switch to summer time on April 26

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will switch to summer time from midnight Thursday, April 26 when clocks are put forward an hour, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Monday. The switch will put the Kingdom three hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time.

Jardaneh off to London

AMMAN (R) — Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh left for London Monday for debt rescheduling talks with banks grouped in the London Club of commercial creditors, an official said. He gave no further details of the talks, due to open Wednesday. Jardaneh said recently that Jordan expected to sign a long-delayed accord with commercial banks grouped in the club by mid-April, paving the way for new loans of up to \$50 million. Bankers involved in the deal have confirmed that prospects for the new money had improved.

Katyushas land in west Galilee

TEL AVIV (R) — Several Soviet-made Katyusha rockets were fired into northern Israel Monday, security sources said. They said the rockets exploded harmlessly in western Galilee. The attack was the first this month. The rockets were apparently fired from somewhere along the coastal road north of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon and south of the town of Tyre, Israel Radio said.

Tias in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Syrian Defence Minister General Mustafa Tias met senior officials of the Lebanese government of Damascus-backed President Elias Hrawi after arriving in west Beirut Monday, security sources said. Syria has 40,000 troops stationed in Lebanon and Tias makes frequent inspection tours. Dozens of Syrian soldiers patrolled west Beirut streets as part of tightened security for the visit, witnesses said.

Sharaa meets Egyptian envoy

DAMASCUS (AP) — Egypt's new ambassador to Syria, the first since Damascus ruptured ties in 1977 over the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, presented his credentials Monday. Ambassador Mustapha Abdul Aziz Mursi's credentials were accepted by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa. The Syrian Arab News Agency said the two discussed means of improving relations between the two countries as well as developments in the Arab world. "The importance of Arab solidarity to confront various challenges was stressed," the agency said.

Militia leader killed in West Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Gunmen in a shooting car killed a commander of the Syrian-backed Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia in west Beirut Monday, police reported. An Amal official said Ali Abu Hasan, the militia's commander in the Zokak Al Blat district of the city's western sector, was assassinated by the pro-Iranian Hizbollah. The official said Abu Hasan was fatally wounded in the attack and died shortly after he arrived at the American University Hospital. Police said Amal militiamen later took to the streets, firing in the air and raiding apartments near the scene of the slaying in an apparent dragnet for the assassins.

Centrists beat Slovenians Communists

BEIGRADE (R) — A centre-right coalition has ousted Communists from power after 45 years in Yugoslavia's Slovenia republic. Tanjug news agency said Monday. Official results showed that the six-party Democratic United Opposition of Slovenia (DEUOS) got 55 per cent of votes in April 8 elections for the Slovenian parliament. Its leader has said the group will seek independence from Belgrade.

Clashes mark anniversary of Abu Jihad killing

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops clashed with Palestinians marking the second anniversary Monday of the killing of the man who Israel believed had orchestrated the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Demonstrators in the West Bank carried the Palestinian flag, burned tyres and clashed with troops as they commemorated the assassination of Khalil Al Wazir, the deputy military commander of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

In the Abu Ghosh village near Ramallah, streets were draped with the Palestinian flag and walls plastered with posters of Wazir (Abu Jihad).

"We swear on the blood of Abu Jihad to continue the intifada," said the slogan on the posters.

Palestinian sources said the Gaza Strip was relatively quiet after Israel confined 650,000 Palestinians there to their homes to stem anticipated demonstrations on the anniversary.

Troops were reinforced in the West Bank where scattered curfews were imposed on villages and refugee camps.

In Jerusalem, a group of masked Palestinian youths rampaged along the main shopping street, stoning police vans, breaking car windows and setting tyres ablaze.

Memorial parades and protests were reported in a half dozen

West Bank towns and refugee camps.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, an Israeli soldier was slightly injured in the right leg when a concrete block was dropped from a rooftop as he patrolled the crowded central market, the army spokesman's office and reports said.

Soldiers opened fire with plastic bullets in Nablus, wounding two Palestinians, reports said. A 23-year-old also was reported shot in clashes with soldiers in the West Bank village of Beita.

Since the start of the uprising, 673 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli soldiers or settlers.

The rampage in Arab Jerusalem began when a half-dozen Palestinian youths, their faces covered with masks and chequered scarves, ran along Salsaddin street and smashed the windows of at least five cars.

An Associated Press reporter saw one of the masked men jump on the hood of a car and kick in its windshield.

Several tyres were set ablaze, and at least two police vans were stoned, witnesses said.

Earlier, slogans had been painted along the street in black and red saying "This is the day of Abu Jihad" and "Yes to the intifada."

The slogans were signed by the Fatah Strike Force. After the incident, police closed the Arab-owned shops along the street. Witnesses said two youths were arrested.

Tension has been heightened in

Jerusalem since the settlement last week of 150 Jews in the centre of the Arab Christian quarter of the old city.

There have been at least four demonstrations by Palestinians and liberal Jews since the 72-room complex was taken over by the Jewish settlers last Wednesday. The Greek Orthodox Church, which owns the building, has gotten a court order to have the settlers evicted, but they appealed.

In the West Bank town of Tulikarm, residents observed 10 minutes of silence at mid-morning in Abu Jihad's memory.

Palestinian flags and posters with photos of Abu Jihad and Arafat were put up along the highways linking Tulikarm and nearby towns, local reporters said.

In the Balata refugee camp outside Nablus, about 500 Palestinian students marched in the slain PLO leader's memory.

In Hebron, police used tear-gas and rubber bullets to break up a demonstration by Palestinian youths, who blocked roads with rocks and burning tyres.

At least 10 youths were arrested, Arab reporters said.

In Askar refugee camp, soldiers slashed the tyres of 10 Arab-owned cars and shot and wounded one Palestinian during overnight clashes, Palestinian sources said.

Two uprising activists were

(Continued on page 5)

Andersson in Cairo to probe peace

CAIRO (R) — Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson, fresh from talks in Tunis with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat, arrived in Cairo Monday to discuss chances for peace in the Middle East.

Swedish embassy officials said Andersson's talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid Tuesday would focus on Middle East peace efforts, at a standstill since the fall of the Israeli coalition government last month.

Last week, Israel's Labour leader Shimon Peres failed to form a new cabinet and asked for a two-week extension.

Andersson, whose secret diplomacy led to the opening of dialogue between the PLO and the United States, has in the past said that he would try to bridge the gap between the PLO and Israel.

The officials said Andersson would leave Cairo Tuesday afternoon when he is due back in Tunisia for a three-day official visit.

The contents of Arafat's Tunis talks with Andersson were not disclosed.

Andersson told reporters that Sweden was trying its best to develop the U.S.-PLO dialogue.

He said Arafat was expected in Cairo within hours.

Thousands cheer Mandela in London

LONDON (R) — Tens of thousands of people and a host of rock music stars gathered in London's biggest stadium Monday to pay tribute to South African black leader Nelson Mandela.

The veteran anti-apartheid campaigner was greeted with tumultuous applause as he appeared on stage at Wembley Stadium with his wife Winnie.

Cheers with broad smiles and his familiar clenched-fist salute.

Later he was due to use the occasion to urge a worldwide television audience of up to one billion people to keep up pressure on South Africa's white minority government.

He was also expected to thank supporters in Britain who organised a pop concert two years ago as part of an international campaign that helped secure his freedom.

The sell-out concert was being beamed live by satellite to dozens of countries, giving Mandela his biggest audience since his release two months ago after 27 years in jail for plotting to topple Pretoria's apartheid system.

But the performance will not be seen in South Africa because of a cultural boycott in protest against its apartheid rules. Americans will also miss the concert as U.S. broadcasting firms failed to

buy the television rights.

The concert line-up featured rock singers Natalie Cole, Peter Gabriel and Tracy Chapman, who performed at the 70th birthday tribute to Mandela at the same London venue in 1988.

Mandela's speech to the 70,000-strong audience at Wembley Stadium was scheduled towards the end of the five-hour mixture of pop and politics which included sets from veteran stars Lou Reed and Neil Young.

As the first acts prepared to reform, the audience at the north London sports stadium was in party mood despite a heavy downpour.

Comedian Lenny Henry told the cheering crowd: "Nelson Mandela waited 27 years to come out of jail and then he showed up on Easter Monday in Britain, the wettest, coldest day in the universe by tradition."

Mandela, vice-president of the African National Congress (ANC), said before leaving South Africa that his address would include an appeal to retain economic sanctions to force the dismantling of apartheid.

His pro-sanctions message conflicts with the position held by British leader Margaret Thatcher, whose name was conspicuously absent from Mandela's schedule in London.

Arafat is due in Amman

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was expected to arrive here late Monday for talks with His Majesty King Hussein on Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and the latest developments in the Middle East, informed sources said.

The sources said a high-level delegation, including several members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee, would accompany the PLO chairman.

Two members of the PLO Executive Committee, Mahmoud Abbas and Abdullah Hourani, arrived here last week and held talks with senior Jordanian officials to prepare for Arafat's visit. The two stayed back in Amman awaiting the PLO chairman's arrival.

In comments carried Sunday night by the Jordan News Agency,

Petra, Arafat said he would discuss prospects of convening a special Arab summit and ways to counter an influx of Soviet Jews to Israel with King Hussein when he visits Jordan.

Arafat said the summit should be convened before the leaders of the U.S. and the Soviet Union meet at the end of next month.

He said talks in Amman would cover "the direct and indirect threats Israeli leaders are launching against our Arab Nation in general and Iraq in particular, the threats of Soviet Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine and bilateral ties."

"Jordan and South Lebanon will be the first to be affected by this programmed Jewish immigration," he said. "The immigration is a demographic bomb inside the Arab body."

Arafat condemned as barbaric this week's tearing down by Israeli police of Greek Orthodox Pat-

riarch Deodoros and the settlement of 150 Jews in St. John's Hospice in Arab Jerusalem.

"This brutal assault was a gift (from the Israelis) to all the Christians of the world," he was quoted as saying by Petra.

Among the topics to be discussed by the King and Arafat is a working paper outlining the basis of future Jordanian-Palestinian relations, according to senior PLO officials.

The basis, they said this week, will be a confederation between Jordan and the State of Palestine as and when it will be created on the ground.

Abbas and Hourani have reiterated the PLO's wish for a confederation between Jordan and an independent Palestinian state.

The PLO and the Palestine National Council (PNC) have repeatedly called for a future confederation between the two.

Split threatens S. Yemeni party

ADEN (AP) — Ali Salem Al Beidh, leader of the ruling Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), was locked in a closed-door session with the party's politburo Monday seeking to contain an emerging rift.

Beidh has in recent months opened up South Yemen, the Arab World's only avowedly Marxist state, in line with the reforming policies of Aden's Soviet mentors.

It was being moving towards union with North Yemen.

The liberalisation effort has included tolerance of demonstrations and strikes and moves towards a multi-party system. This has pushed political factions towards forming new parties that could end the Socialist Party's monopoly of power.

Details of the split within the party's leadership were not clear.

But it appeared to be primarily between factions led by Salem Saleh Mohammad, the party's deputy secretary-general, and Seif Sayel, secretary of the party's organisation in Aden, the capital.

It was not clear if the infighting will affect the moves to merge the two Yemens by November, after years of friction.

But North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Salem was quoted by the official Radio Sana Sunday night as declaring at a rally that "Communists and fundamentalist Muslims" were trying to torpedo the merger.

He was referring to grassroots opposition in both countries to a union of the two long-impooverished Red Sea states, which have discovered oil and are moving towards an economic turnaround.

The South Yemen rift came to light when some 6,000 demonstrators took to the streets in the capital Friday and Saturday nights to protest the downfall of Aden's governor, Nagi Othman, in elections last week.

The pro-Othman protesters charged that the elections were rigged and that rival blocs were forming within the party.

Beidh called the meeting of the 11-member politburo, which includes President Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas, late Sunday.

That appeared to have preempted a counter-demonstration by supporters of Sayel, who has been nominated for the politburo and attends its meetings.

The earlier elections had been

postponed since November, when Othman was the only candidate, until Sayel's faction could find a candidate strong enough to unseat him.

Othman Karamani, a member of Sayel's faction, won.

The former governor is an ally of Salem Saleh Mohammad, who heads one of the two main factions with Al Beidh, the party's secretary-general.

The rival radical faction led by Sayel, the party's Aden boss since 1987 when he returned from Moscow with a doctorate in political science, is known as Fataheen after former party leader Abdul Fatah Ismail.

He was slain in a 12-day civil war between rival party factions in January 1986 that also toppled former President Ali Nasser Mohammad.

Beidh and Mohammad became South Yemen's strongmen following the civil war.

Beidh was defeated last week in a party leadership vote when he tried to take over from Attas as head of the party's ruling praesidium.

He apparently wanted to be on an equal footing with Saleh in North Yemen.

Lithuania seeks compromise

MOSCOW (R) — Lithuania is ready to compromise on the key issues cited by President Mikhail Gorbachev in his threat to cut off strategic goods, the Baltic republic's prime minister said Monday.

Kazimiera Prunskiene, in a telephone interview from her office in Vilnius, said the republic's leaders had been "very careful" in drafting a response to Gorbachev at a special session held on Easter Monday, a public holiday in Lithuania.

She said Gorbachev's threat, issued last Friday, differed from previous Kremlin statements because it did not specifically demand the rescinding of Lithuania's March 11 declaration of independence.

The Kremlin warning, also signed by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, gave the republic two days to abandon legislation backing up its independence declaration or face a cut-off of all supplies normally sold abroad for hard currency.

There were no specific signs of any attempt to halt supplies of such goods, which would include

oil, gas and other raw materials scarce in the republic.

"This last telegram represents a softening because there was no mention of presidential power and no necessity of rescinding the decisions of March 11," Prunskiene said.

"There were claims in connection with concrete issues — the spring military call-up, the rights of Soviet citizens in Lithuania and property of the Soviet Communist Party. On all these questions we are prepared not only to hold talks but also to move towards compromises."

She repeated Lithuania's willingness to allow men to serve in the Soviet army if they wished and said it had agreed to let resident Soviet citizens retain their citizenship.

The authorities were also prepared to examine urgently disputes over Soviet properties which Lithuania claimed as its own following its independence proclamation. They included buildings belonging to the national Communist Party.

Gorbachev had demanded the

repeal of the Lithuanian parliament's call to boycott the spring Soviet military call-up and its decision to introduce "citizenship certificates." He also referred to the dispute over Communist Party property.

Prunskiene said she saw no evidence of any supplies being withheld "outside the normal shortages within the Soviet system."

She also said the joint meeting of the Lithuanian government and parliamentary leadership issued instruction to Lithuanian enterprises not to withhold goods to Soviet customers pending clarification of Moscow's measures.

"We agreed to take no measures until there was some clarification," she said.

"We are entitled to know what the Soviet Union means when it talks about halting supplies — what goods are we talking about, are we to be made to pay in hard currency or what?"

The prime minister said a telegram drafted by the meeting

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King meets with Communists

By Lams K. Andoni Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In what was viewed as "a gesture of national reconciliation," His Majesty King Hussein met Sunday night the leadership of the Jordanian Communist Party (JCP) for the first time since the party's inception in the early fifties.

"We believe that the historic barrier between us has been removed," declared JCP political bureau member Issa Mdanat on Monday. "The ice has been broken," he said.

Mdanat, who is the only Communist member in the Lower House of parliament, described the one hour and a half meeting "as very positive."

The meeting followed earlier consultations between JCP party leaders and senior palace officials which had led to the participation of a communist representative in the Royal Commission entrusted with drawing up the proposed national charter to regulate political life in the country.

Analysts viewed the meeting as an expected result of the democratisation process and the general shift in the Communists attitude in light of the sweeping changes in Eastern Europe.

As a leading part of the opposition, the JCP had clashed with successive Jordanian governments over policies ranging from the Jordanian alliances with the West to economic and internal policies.

The JCP was particularly active during the fifties when it had vehemently opposed American President Dwight Eisenhower's doctrine and the 1955 Baghdad pact.

The party supported the national coalition government of the late Suleiman Nabulsi and for a short period in the early seventies formed a military branch which fought alongside the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Party members including the leadership were frequently imprisoned while a 1953 law against communism stipulated a minimum of 15 year imprisonment for any Jordanian who is convicted of membership of the party or even disseminating Marxist ideas.

But since 1967 the law was sparingly used, and last January the government presented to Parliament a draft legislation to abolish the law. The legislation is now being discussed by the Legal Committee of the Lower House.

In the past the state had viewed the JCP as committed to topple the regime, something that the JCP leaders repeatedly denied.

During the November's elections, JCP candidates, who stood for parliament as individuals, stressed their adherence to the Constitution.

"We have no problem with the kind of regime that we co-exist with, whether it is a republic or a monarchy. After all there could be repressive republics," JCP Chairman Yacoub Ziadin repeatedly said during his unsuccessful bid for a parliament seat last November.

Unionist Democrats aim to rally 'uncommitted' Jordanians

By Lams K. Andoni Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Unionist Democratic Association (UDA) — a liberal political grouping seeking to become a legal party — held its seventh annual conference over the weekend and concluded it with an open meeting attended by representatives of at least seven political trends in the country.

The event is expected to mark the start of a new tradition in the political life in Jordan for in the past the existing groups had hitherto held their annual conferences underground.

Although the UDA, which

was established in 1983, has never been a clandestine organisation, the conference — which took place at the Jerusalem Hotel Saturday and Sunday — was the first time that the association publicly introduced itself as a political party.

In a short speech, UDA founder Dr. Jamal Shaer declared that his group hopes to represent mainstream Jordanians who are not part of the organised left or Islamic fundamentalist movement.

"As it stands now, the political map of Jordan includes two organised trends: The biggest is the organised Islamic coalition and the second and smaller comprises the leftist

groups, but the majority of the Jordanians in between are not organised and do not have a group to represent them," he said.

"We hope that the UDA will represent this category without taking a hostile position against either the Islamists or the left," he added.

On their party, representatives of the Islamists and the leftist trends stressed commitment to political tolerance and pluralism. Muslim Brotherhood representative Ziad Abu Ghaneim seized the occasion to stress his group's readiness to work within a pluralist framework.

Abu Ghaneim's remarks

implied a departure from hostile attitude expressed in the last two months by a number of Muslim Brotherhood officials against Communist activities. It was not yet clear, however, if Abu Ghaneim's emphasis on pluralism would translate into a change in the Brotherhood's position on the legalisation of the Communist Party.

Although most of the groups present did not announce any new position, the short speeches revealed aspects of the ongoing debate on the national charter.

Mazen Saket, a pan-Arab nationalist, urged the Jordanian groups to articulate a

clear position on the charter and its objective. "Will the charter define the shape, the direction and the limitations of the future political movement," he asked, "Will it be binding?"

In his comments, Dr Shaer pointed out that his group had always advocated public political activities as opposed to clandestine work and the establishment of parties which are independent from an affiliation with a state or a force abroad.

Dr. Shaer, a former Baathist, has repeatedly argued in the past that parties with extensions abroad have proved to be "destructive of and res-

trictive" to local parties.

In an apparent reply to Dr. Shaer's remarks, the Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPDP) representative Tayseer Zabari expressed resentment of the classification of parties as independent or with extensions abroad.

The JPDP broke away from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) last July (in complete coordination with the latter) after functioning as its Jordanian wing for more than one decade. JPDP officials insist that they are independent from the Damascus-based DFLP.

Representatives of the

Jordanian wing of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Party of Justice, and the Constitutional Front (both of which are tiny groups which are seeking to turn into broad popular-based parties) also addressed the meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, Lower House Speaker Suleiman Arar urged all trends to cooperate to ensure the success of the Jordanian experiment with democracy.

Both Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hameed Saeh and Palestinian ambassador Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim were present at the meeting.

Riyadh rejects Iranian criticism

Saudi Arabia sticks to pilgrimage quotas

RIYADH (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia has reaffirmed that it will only allow 45,000 Iranians to visit the holy city of Mecca in this year's annual Muslim pilgrimage despite bitter criticism by Tehran.

The pilgrimage quota, imposed two years ago after riots which the Saudis said were instigated by the Iranians, limits Iran's contingent to less than one-third the number that usually visited Mecca annually before 1988.

The official Saudi Press Agency quoted a spokesman for the Ministry of Pilgrimage and Religious Endowments as saying late Sunday that Saudi Arabia rejected "auctioneering, haggling and pressure tactics" from Tehran to have the quota system lifted.

The comment was prompted by the publication in Tehran last Wednesday of an open letter signed by more than half of the 270 members of Iran's parliament and demanding Saudi Arabia allow 150,000 Iranians to make this year's pilgrimage which climaxes in early July.

The quota system, which was backed by all other Muslim countries except Iran, allows only 1,000 out of every 1 million head of population in Islamic nations. Iran has boycotted the pilgrimage since the quota system was imposed.

Iran recently announced its population has swelled to 55 million, which under the quota system would allow it to send 55,000 pilgrims. But the Saudi statement specified only 45,000 would be permitted.

It said Riyadh "rejects any attempt to divert it from its determination to implement this decision which is fully respected by all Islamic states with the exception of Iran, which allows itself to violate this decision and break with unanimity for objectives that have become well known and exposed to the Islamic World and its nations."

It said Iranians were welcome so long as they stayed within the quota limits and heeded Saudi bans on political demonstrations during the pilgrimage.

The statement warned against any attempt "to try to infringe on the security of the pilgrims of the sacred House of God, whose security is an indivisible part of the security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

It said the Iranian lawmakers' letter was part of "Iran's attempts to break away from the Islamic unanimity under the mantle of false charges whenever the Haj season gets near."

The Saudis cited large-scale renovations and expansion of facilities in Mecca and the other holy city of Medina for the cutbacks.

But the move followed the riots in Mecca during the 1987 pilgrimage in which 402 people, including more than 280 Iranians, were killed.

Saudi Arabia has been at odds with Iran for years in a religious dispute and severed relations in April 1988, citing terrorism and subversion.

Iran's population is overwhelmingly Shi'ite Muslim. Most of Saudi Arabia's native population of an estimated 8 million belong to the mainstream Sunni sect. The rival sects have been feuding for centuries.

The Iranian parliamentarians' letter demanded Riyadh pay "blood money" for the Iranians killed in 1987, the last pilgrimage season at which an Iranian contingent was present.

Iran charges that Saudi security forces killed its pilgrims. The Saudi statement reiterated Riyadh's contention that the fatalities were mainly elderly pilgrims and women crushed in a stampede when security forces tried to disperse the demonstrators.

The statement listed "shameful" attempts by Iranians to disrupt earlier pilgrimages.

It cited the discovery of large quantities of explosives carried by a planeload of Iranians in 1986 and the seizure of 35,000 sharp implements, including knives and daggers, during the 1987 Haj.

The statement noted "a provocative campaign" by Iran's media following last year's heading of 16 Shi'ite Muslims, most of them from Kuwait, convicted of bombings during the 1989 pilgrimage.

The explosions killed one Pakistani pilgrim and wounded 16 other Muslims.

The Tehran lawmakers insisted that pilgrims must be allowed to stage demonstrations in Mecca as Iran's late revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, had demanded.

The Saudi statement quoted messages purported to have been issued by Khomeini in 1980 and 1983 urging Iranian pilgrims heading for Mecca "to avoid any act that would bring about division in Islamic ranks."

Khomeini was also quoted as ordering Iranian Muslims to pray under the leadership of Saudi preachers while in Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi claims contrasted with public calls by Iranian religious leaders to seize the shrines in Mecca and Medina, which are under the custodianship of the Saudi royal family.

The Iranian leaders also refused to have Iranians led in prayers by Saudis and proclaimed that the pilgrimage rituals should include demonstrations against the United States, Israel and other countries the Iranians consider enemies of Islam.

Khomeini has pledged to export Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution to neighbouring Gulf countries and seize the leadership of the Islamic World.

Muslims fast during the day

Meanwhile Muslim business in the Middle East slackened as usual during working hours in the holy month of Ramadan this year, but consumerism was rampant after dark.

As shadows lengthened the traffic roar resumed with the faithful rushing to break their fast and feast with their families.

After enduring abstinence from food, water, and smoking, Muslims enjoyed lavish meals at home or spent heavily in restaurants on the special dishes traditional at Ramadan.

Many Muslims in the Arab World have been observing Ramadan since March 27. Others started the following day. The annual rite of self-discipline will end next week.

Merchants, aware that Muslims eat more during Ramadan than they do in other months of the year, have raised prices of fruit, meat, and vegetables to the predictable outcry of shoppers.

In Tunis, Kmar Safene, director of domestic trade at the Economy Ministry, said that food consumption increased between 10 and 20 per cent during Ramadan.

"There is a big difference between the spirit of Ramadan and the way consumers behave," the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Bayan said Sunday.

"Some housewives admit that they go over the top in preparing meals to break the fast while traders have said sales of some foods have doubled," it added.

Fasting is one of the five sacred pillars of Islam, along with a pledge to God and the Prophet Muhammad, praying five times a day, giving alms to the poor and making a pilgrimage to Mecca.

Working hours in government offices and banks were cut in most Arab countries.

In very conservative Arab countries, people are shunned and sometimes punished for eating in public during fasting hours.

In Saudi Arabia people can be whipped and jailed for ignoring the fast, while in Egypt parliament is studying a draft law to punish people for infringements.

British hostage ends 4th year in captivity

BEIRUT (R) — Journalist John McCarthy, the longest-held British hostage in Lebanon, completed his fourth year in captivity Monday with mystery shrouding his fate.

"I've got to go. I've got a lot to do. I'll see you tomorrow," McCarthy told his friend Jill McNeill in a phone call to London one day before heading for Beirut airport for a flight to England.

McCarthy, 33, a journalist with World Television News, was seized by gunmen on April 17, 1986, as he drove to catch his plane two days after an air raid on Libya by U.S. jets based in Britain. Tripoli denounced Britain's role.

On the same day McCarthy was kidnapped, three hostages, an American and two Britons, were killed by their captors to avenge the raid.

Unlike most of 17 Westerners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon by pro-Iranian groups, no-one has claimed responsibility for seizing McCarthy. No videotapes or polaroid photographs have been released showing him in captivity.

The missing hostages include eight Americans, Irishman Brian Keenan and Britons Terry Waite and Jack Mann.

American Terry Anderson of the Associated Press is the longest held victim. He was seized in a Beirut street on March 16, 1985.

A senior Muslim fundamentalist source denied McCarthy's abduction was linked to the plight of the other Western hostages.

"McCarthy is not on the hostage list," the source said without elaborating.

Muslim security sources said this could mean McCarthy was not held by militants loyal to Iran but was detained by a Libyan-backed group.

Recent statements by Iranian leaders that the hostage crisis could end soon have raised hopes the kidnappers might be freed this year. But a Western diplomat here believed the Iranian comments were only "test balloons."

"It is unlikely that the United States would make concessions to Iran, and it is unlikely that Tehran would back down from its demands. So there is nothing much going on at the moment on the hostages," he said.

In the long and uncertain years since his abduction, McCarthy's family campaigned tirelessly for his release.

Kollek says Dole misinterpreted him

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek says he did not agree with U.S. Senate Republican leader Robert Dole that a Senate resolution recognising Jerusalem as Israel's capital should be repealed.

"I was surprised to learn that you referred to our conversation to justify your intention to propose to the Senate that it rescind its recent resolution on Jerusalem, an action I fully oppose," Kollek said in a telegram to Dole.

On Friday Dole told journalists in Jerusalem Kollek agreed with him that the resolution was detrimental.

"Mayor Kollek... believes that Jerusalem should be the capital (of Israel) but he also said he agreed, in fact told us yesterday morning, that the resolution was ill-timed, it served no useful purpose," Dole said.

Kollek said his comments to the senators referred to an earlier U.S. resolution.

"I did discuss with you and your colleagues a resolution taken some years ago concerning moving the (U.S.) embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem which was never acted upon," he said in the telegram.

Dole co-sponsored the non-binding resolution on Jerusalem which is parts for its petrochemical industry.

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Bhutto in Mecca to perform Umrah

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived Monday on a 3-day visit to Mecca, her second out-of-season pilgrimage to Islam's holiest shrines.

Diplomatic sources said that Bhutto will hold talks with King Fahd. She also met with him during her visit 15 months ago to perform Umrah, as the visit to the holy shrines during off season is called. The Haj, or pilgrimage, falls at the end of June this year.

The Saudi monarch is in Mecca for the last third of the current Muslim holy month of fasting, Ramadan.

The sources, who spoke on condition they not be named, said that Bhutto's talks with Fahd will cover various issues of common interest, international developments, and especially the rising tension on the Pakistan-Indian

border because of Hindu-Muslim religious strife in the disputed province of Kashmir.

The sources noted that Afghanistan is also a major issue of interest to both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The two countries led the international support for the Mujahideen who fought the 1979-89 Soviet invasion of their country and still back the factions despite the squabbling among them.

Kashmir is the only Muslim-dominated area in India, and the Saudi-based 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) has been expressing concern about clashes there. The Saudi-dominated OIC is an umbrella organisation for the Islamic World.

Jordan congratulates Syria; Qassem ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad congratulating him on the 44th anniversary of the evacuation of foreign forces from Syria. The King wished President Assad continued good health and happiness and the Syrian people further progress and prosperity.

Also Sunday Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qassem wound up a two-day visit to Syria, during which he conveyed a message from His Majesty King Hussein to President Assad, and held talks with his Syrian counterpart Farouq Al Sharaa on issues of mutual interest.

In a departure statement at Damascus airport, Qassem said

that he carried a reply message from President Assad to King Hussein.

Qassem said that his visit to Syria comes within the framework of ongoing consultations and contacts between Jordan and the sister Arab countries, particularly Syria.

He pointed out that such contacts and consultations were aimed at crystallising a pan-Arab stand capable of countering the challenges facing the Arab Nation.

Sharaa described his talks with Qassem as brotherly and positive and said such talks would contribute to enhancing bilateral relations and coming up with a unified position to face the challenges confronting the Arab Nation.

Mufti slams U.S. Senate resolution

AMMAN (Petra) — The office of the General Mufti Monday denounced a recent resolution adopted by the United States Senate, recognising Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The mufti described the resolution as a "flagrant violation of the faith of all Muslims, and makes the United States a partner of Israel in its aggression against and oppression of the Palestinian people."

Islamic Affairs also denounced the American Senate's decision, saying that it reflects the hostile American stand towards the Arab and Muslim nations.

In a communique issued Monday, the ministry said the decision demonstrates the biased American position and shows the complete U.S. surrender to the Zionist pressures.

The communique went on to say that the American position does not give any weight to the principles of justice, the historical rights or the international law and charters.

"The U.S. position contravenes the faiths and values which all the messengers of God and the Prophet Mohammad have heralded," a statement issued by the mufti said. "Furthermore, it conflicts with the human rights and the principles which the prophets have advocated," the statement said.

The Ministry of Awqaf and

Experts study Western influence on Arab press

By Aisla Tawil
Special to the Jordan Times

IRBID — How much is language used for covering news in the Arabic press influenced by Western style of reporting? And do Western reporters employ the same techniques and apply the same parameters while interviewing Arab and Israeli? These questions and many more were addressed last month at a linguistics conference held at Yarmouk University.

Among the 30 working papers submitted to the conference was one entitled "The Western News Media and the Language of International News Items in the Arabic Press: Implication of Interaction." The paper, prepared by Dr. Abdul Fattah Abu Saydeh of the University of Bahrain, examined the presentation of political news items in the Arab Gulf press with a view to determining whether the language used was influenced by the language of the Western Press, and if so, to identifying the extent of such influence.

The researcher made a comparative study of a survey of the lexical, structural, organisational and stylistic levels and concluded that news items in the Arabic press borrow heavily from the Western press.

The paper demonstrated that the process of borrowing was continuous and far-reaching, and has a momentum of its own which is rarely affected by the activities of the regulatory bodies such as Arabic language academies and centres for Arabisation. As such, the Arabic press is viewed as one of the factors that substantially contribute to changes in modern standard Arabic.

Another paper, presented by Yaba Al Aridi from Damascus University, investigated the strategies adopted by American journalists when interviewing Arab and Israeli politicians, diplomats and political observers of Middle Eastern affairs.

According to Dr. Fawwaz Abdul Haq of the English department at Yarmouk University, the paper tackled the problems of discourse analysis from a socio-economic point of view of manipulative strategies implemented during interviews given by Arab and Israeli political figures to American journalists.

The paper concluded that variation characterised in the implementation of these discourse strategies. Such variation, according to the paper, is behind the asymmetry of communicative power between the two groups. It has been found that the Arabs are less successful in communicating their ideas, mainly because the discourse strategies used with Arabs by interviewers were different from those used with Israelis. This study was supported by statistical evidence and the findings of an investigation of interviewers' strategies. The researcher used 40 video-tapes and transcribed interviews that constituted the basic data for his paper. The three major discourse strategies implemented by the interviewers, according to the paper, were neutral, power-giving and control exercising. The investigation was conducted by Georgetown University.

These and other interesting papers were discussed during the conference, which was not restricted to one specific area.

According to Dr. Mohammad Ajlouni, assistant dean of the Faculty of Literature at Yarmouk University, "This conference was also a forum for those who presented their papers with a view to exchanging ideas and checking them with specialists in a most appropriate atmosphere."

"It has become a tradition of our English department," Dr. Ajlouni added. "Our seventh meeting drew the attention of the participants to ongoing research and recent linguistic issues of which they had not been aware."

Dr. Issam Abu Salim, a member of the organising committee, said that "areas that are involved are both theoretical and applied linguistics such as translation problems, teaching English as a foreign language and many others in syntax, phonology. We hope to see more Arab universities, including the University of Jordan, included (in future conferences)."

Plan under study aims at boosting the media — Izzeddin

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin has expressed hope that the Ministry of Information would strengthen the information message of the media through a plan being currently prepared by the national guidance council.

The minister was quoted as saying by Al Dustour Arabic daily that the ministry, until the plan is finalised, will be doing its best to serve the hopes of the society.

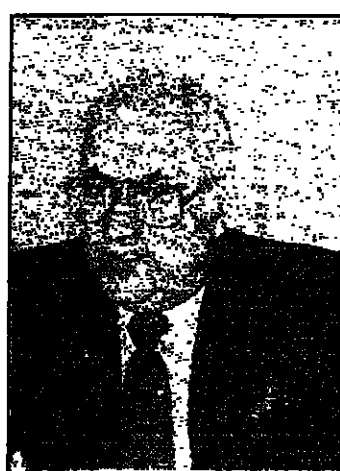
The policy, he said, will abide by rationality, scientific approach, the ethics of the profession, will respect the principles of equality and justice and the rights of people to self-determination, avoid fanaticism and racism, and will strengthen relations of understanding with the international community.

The minister's comments came in reply to queries made by Deputy Fouad Khleifat and published by Al Dustour. According to the minister, the information policy in Jordan is based on constants and variables. The constants in the policy, he said, are based on the Jordanian Constitu-

tion, "faith in God and the spiritual values of the Arab Nation, preserving its heritage, human civilisation and Jordan's Arab identity since the Jordanian people is part of the Arab Nation and Jordan is part of the Arab World." The policy is also aimed at deepening and broadening the spirit of productivity and rationalising consumption as well as at spreading awareness of developments in the Arab World with honesty, objectivity and sincerity.

"The aspects governing the ministry under its current leadership can be summarised as in the ministerial statement on information," the minister said. He quoted the statement as saying "the government is trying to review the dimensions of the information policy to rise up with the level of the media message to a high level of reality and sincerity."

He added that the government was trying to emphasise the role of the press in highlighting Jordan's march towards civilisation. "The government stressed the



Ibrahim Izzeddin

importance of the cultural role of the mass media in supporting the educational process in the country and the important role it plays in supporting the steadfastness of the people of Palestine," he said.

The minister said the ministry was currently studying adjusting the publications law number 33 for the year 1973, in accordance with the government's commitments to the Lower House of Parliament.

"The ministry will also revise the Jordanian Press Association law in cooperation with the association," he said.

Izzeddin said the ministry had issued comprehensive regulations to organise the import of cinema tapes, until the law concerning the issue is changed.

Car rental tariffs revised

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport Ibrahim Ayyoub Sunday adopted a decision introducing a new tariff for tourist cars for Jordanians and non-Jordanians.

According to the new tariff applicable to Jordanians, the daily fare for a vehicle with an engine of less than 1200 cubic centimetres (cc) will be JD 13 and the charge per kilometre will be 30 fils.

The weekly rate for such cars will be JD 78. For cars with an engine capacity of 1400 cc to 1500 cc, the rate will be JD 19 per day, JD 114 per week, and 40 fils per kilometre.

The rates for cars with an engine of 1600-1799 cc will be JD 22 per day, JD 132 per week and 45 fils per kilometre.

For vehicles with an engine capacity ranging between 1800-1999 cc, the daily rate will be JD 25, the weekly rate will be JD 150 and the charge per kilometre will be 50 fils.

Rates for vehicles with engines ranging between 2000 and 2399 cc, will be JD 29 per day, JD 174 per week and 50 fils per kilometre.

For cars with an engine capacity of 2400 cc and up, the rate will be JD 34 per day, JD 204 per week and 60 fils per kilometre.

The tariff for foreigners will be as follows:

\$19.1 per day and \$115 per week for vehicles with an engine capacity of 1200 cc; the charge per kilometre will be 14 cents.

\$23.5 per day and \$141 per week for cars with an engine capacity ranging between 1201 cc and 1399 cc. The charge per kilometre will be 51 cents.

\$27.9 per day and \$167 per week for vehicles with an engine capacity of 1400 cc to 1599 cc. The charge per kilometre will be 59 cents.

\$32.4 per day and \$194 per week for vehicles with an engine capacity ranging between 1600 and 1799 cc. The charge per kilometre will be 66 cents.

\$36.8 per day and \$221 per week for vehicles with an engine capacity ranging between 1800 and 1999 cc; the charge per kilometre will be 74 cents.

\$42.6 per day and \$255 per week for vehicles with an engine capacity of 2000-2399 cc; the

charge per kilometre will be 88 cents.

\$50 per day and \$300 per week for cars with an engine capacity of 2400 cc and above; the charge per kilometre will be 88 cents.

The decision called for collecting the fare from foreigners in local currency at the exchange rate posted on the first day the car was rented.

The decision also stipulated that a minimum amount, covering at least the first 100 kilometres in case the car is rented for one day, be paid.

The fare will be calculated on 24 hours basis. In case of delay, the renter has to pay the fare for a quarter of a day for the first two hours of delay, the amount is increased to half a day for four hours of delay, to three quarters of a day for a delay of 6 hours and a whole day fare for more than 6 hours of delay.

CAEU sets agenda for conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The permanent representatives at the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Monday approved the agenda for CAEU's 53rd ministerial meeting to be convened in Cairo on June 6.

Of the main topics listed on the agenda is a report by Secretary-General Hassan Ibrahim on cues for Arab economic growth and recommendations by the permanent committee.

The agenda includes a memorandum by Kuwait expressing its wish to pull out of the council and another one by the general secretariat on the financial situation.

A CAEU committee entrusted with customs and trade affairs started its meetings Sunday.

The five-day meetings are scheduled to discuss promoting trade between CAEU member states

Jordan, PLO emphasise common political position

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin Monday discussed with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee member Abdullah Al Hourani and Palestinian Ambassador Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim issues pertaining to means of further enhancing the joint Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation.

In a press statement following the talks, Hourani said the meeting came as a continuation of contacts between Jordanian and Palestinian officials. He said it was natural to hold such meetings with Jordanian officials, in view of the unique Jordanian-Palestinian relations which are based on mutual confidence and a unified stand vis-a-vis political issues.

Hourani said the joint Jordanian-Palestinian efforts under the current circumstances derive special importance in view of the latest and decisive developments on the Palestinian and Arab arenas. He said the common Jordanian-Palestinian

efforts constitute the basis for a broad-based pan-Arab work in both international and Arab fora.

He said the meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat falls within the context of ongoing consultations and coordination between the Jordanian and the Palestinian leadership on issues of interest to the whole Arab Nation and on the central issue: the Palestinian question.

On Sunday, Minister of Culture Khaled Al Karaki, met with Hourani and discussed with him bilateral cooperation in the cultural field, and examined possibilities of holding a joint Jordanian-Palestinian cultural week in Amman.

The proposed week should include folk and artistic performances, book exhibitions, poetry recitals and story telling.

The two sides agreed on the formation of a joint committee to be charged with drawing executive programmes capable of enhancing cultural cooperation be-

tween the Ministry of Culture and the Palestinian Department of Culture.

The meeting was attended by the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim.

Also Sunday, Abdul Rahim said Jordan and the PLO were mounting their efforts to put an end to the Soviet Jewish immigration. In a statement to Petra, Abdul Rahim said that the pan-Arab move to curb this immigration is well below the expectations. "Therefore, the PLO and Jordan are embarking on an effort to ensure the necessary mobilisation to counter the dangerous effects this immigration," he said.

Abdul Rahim pointed out that an agreement already concluded with the Soviet Union might help to reduce the number of immigrants, but will not solve the problem for good. "Therefore, there is a need for a well-planned, coordinated and intensive effort to counter such immigration," he said.

International Journalists Union plans Amman meeting

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A three-man delegation representing the Prague-based International Journalists Union (IJU) is currently visiting Jordan for talks with Ministry of Information officials and members of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) and other parties interested in holding the IJU's executive committee meetings in Amman this summer.

The delegation comprises Mazen Hussein, the organisation's secretary for U.N. and international affairs, Constantine Evanov, the organisation's secretary for the Middle East and social affairs, and Vladimir Kromel, director of the technical affairs department. The delegation arrived Sunday.

In a statement to the Jordan Times, Hussein said that the IJU includes 260,000 journalists from 100 countries all over the world. The union enjoys a consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

(UNESCO). Speaking about the Union's objectives, Hussein said it strives to defend and safeguard the interests of journalists throughout the world and to protect their freedoms and rights particularly their right to write.

He stressed that the union is a professional, rather than a political body, however it defends the right of people to get the right and reliable information.

Achievements

On the union's achievements, Evanov said that the union five days ago published a book, written by 17 journalists, in which they documented their observations about the Israeli provocations and violations in the occupied West Bank.

Evanov said that the union has supported journalists in the occupied Arab territories and in South Africa. He pointed out that the union is mostly interested in the "hot spots in the world, where our presence is remarkably observed."

He added that the IJU had sent journalists to Namibia to cover

the parliamentary elections, and to probe into the situations there. He added that they documented the events and circulated them to international television stations.

He also pointed out that the union is currently in the process of organising training courses for free Namibia, similar to what was done in the occupied Arab territories.

On the proposed agenda for the forthcoming meeting, Hussein said the union will discuss the inhuman Israeli practices against journalists and the media, in addition to means of supporting the Palestinian uprising and lobbying support for the legitimate Palestinian rights, including the right to self-determination and to establish their own independent state on their national soil. Also on the agenda are items pertaining to the journalistic profession, including their work conditions and their rights and safety.

On the Soviet Jewish immigration, Evanov said the union is against any forcible immigration, "everybody has the right to select his place of domicile."

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Arar calls for press panel

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar Sunday called for establishing a press arbitration panel, which will be entrusted with looking into any conflicts or differences and find solutions to them. Arar made this statement after receiving a memo carrying 111 signatures of journalists representing local, Arab and international press.

'No bad dates from S. Arabia'

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Education Secretary-General Munther Al Masri Monday categorically denied that dates found unfit for human consumption had been received from Saudi Arabia. Masri said the 129 tonnes found unfit were part of 216 tonnes of dates provided by the Food and Agricultural Organisation

Holiday announced

AMMAN (Petra) — All ministries, government departments and public institutions will be closed for four days, starting Wednesday, April 25 in observance of Eid Al Fitr holiday, according to a statement issued by the Prime Ministry Sunday.

Qatanani briefs church team

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Foreign Ministry Ahmad Qatanani Monday briefed a visiting delegation from the Swiss Evangelist Reformed Church Israel's repeated violations of human rights in the occupied territories. Qatanani referred to the latest attack on the Greek Orthodox community in occupied Jerusalem and on the Greek Orthodox Patriarch Theodoros I.

Barrage of questions hits parley on national charter

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times staff reporter

AMMAN — Members of the Royal Commission to draft the proposed national charter feel that Jordan needs the document to guide the Kingdom's democratic process but the public is asking them to "come closer to the needs of the people" before embarking on their endeavour "if it is needed at all."

In a public debate on the national charter, held late last week at the Royal Cultural Centre, three members of the Lower House of Parliament, one of whom is not a member of the Royal Commission, discussed their expectations over the proposed charter and were later faced with a barrage of questions and accusations over the shift in their positions on the charter.

Deputies Majid Khaleifeh, Muhammad Abu Ullaim and Bassam Haddadin presented the attending public with their evaluation of the national charter and the elements that should be included in it.

Khaleifeh, a Muslim Brotherhood deputy, highlighted three guidelines which, he said, should govern the national charter. "Everyone agrees that this country is an

Islamic and Arab country with a clear identity which would not allow for controversy in the national charter."

He added that the charter will be "complementary to the constitution allowing no contradiction with any of its articles," and that national unity of the citizens of Jordan "leaves no space for further analysis."

Khaleifeh said that Arab unity is the foundation of Islam and that Jordan "is part of the Arab World which is in turn the heart of the Islamic world."

The Islamist deputy called for directing the country's educational and media institutions towards their responsibility "of creating national faith in the hearts of the citizens of the country."

He placed special emphasis on the role of the youth in building the society and called for special focus on their development "according to the traditions of our country."

Haddadin, a member of the unofficial Jordan Popular Democratic Party (JPDP), distributed a comprehensive report of what he described a "draft of the national charter," and spoke of the fears which gripped political trends in Jordan when the concept of a

national charter was first announced.

"There was an obvious fear that this charter would supercede the constitution and would place a ceiling on political work in the country," Haddadin said.

He added that Jordan did not need "intellectual, political or organisational ceilings which would limit the freedoms stipulated in the constitution."

Although Haddadin is not a member of the Royal Commission entrusted with drafting the charter, he proposed ideas that he felt should be included in the charter.

The concept underlined in his proposed ideas is to highlight the role of the people in combating foreign influence beginning with the British mandate, the Baghdad pact and the Israeli occupation of Arab territories.

"A special tribute has to be paid to the struggle of our people to ensure good living for them," Haddadin said. He also called for cancelling all amendments to the constitution which were included during the reign of the martial law and "democratising and developing the labour and press and publications laws."

Haddadin underlined the need to draft a new law for political parties "which would take us away from tribalism and sectarianism."

He stressed the need to clarify the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship in Jordan "based on the respect of the two national identities, with a special attention to the special elements to the Palestinian identity."

He explained that maintaining the Palestinian identity and defending it "does not contradict the concept of Arab unity."

Deputy Abu Ullaim, who was called in as a speaker at the last minute and was unprepared for the occasion, spoke only for one minute in which he highlighted his belief that the national charter should have "Jordanian roots."

"The national charter is here to organise existing ideologies and political trends," Abu Ullaim said.

In the open question-answer debate that followed the introductory speeches, the three deputies were subjected to heavy criticism for their performance as deputies and their roles as members of the Royal Commission.

"We need a committee which can translate the problems of the people; we don't

want slogans," an angry citizen said expressing his fear that the deputies would "align themselves with the executive authority against us."

Khaleifeh and Haddadin targeted for public criticism for the change in their political stand on the national charter which during the elections period was one of total opposition.

"You are both from well-known political parties which proposed clear policies during the campaigning period. How can you go back on your promises?" one of the citizens asked.

While Khaleifeh answered with a short statement indicating that the charter will be presented for a public referendum, Haddadin maintained that he was not a member of the Royal Commission. "The fact that the political trend I belong to is represented in the commission does not mean that I approve," Haddadin said.

Haddadin added he believed that "since the regime insists on this national charter then we should study it and it is not unconstitutional."

Many participants used the open atmosphere to level accusations rather than ask questions. "You are a drafting

committee which means that the ideas have already been prepared for you," one of the speakers contended.

While Khaleifeh and Haddadin tried to explain that the charter may serve as a guarantor of democracy in the Kingdom, some citizens argued with them contending the fulfilment of martial law was reimposed, martial law was reimposed.

"We had a constitution which guaranteed our rights as citizens but it was superceded by the martial law for decades," one participant said. Several participants attacked Abu Ullaim for stressing the Jordanian identity is his short speech on the national charter. "How can we create unity with this type of mentality?" one of them asked.

The organisers of the debate, which was scheduled to include Adnan Abu Odeh, political advisor to His Majesty King Hussein, Deputy Salim Zoubi and Senator Hussni Ayyesh, were also the recipients of harsh criticism for allowing the scheduled speakers to cancel their appearance at the last minute.

"We came here on a pretence; if some speakers want to cancel their appearance they should do so twenty four hours in advance," a citizen said.

JORDAN CLINIC

Dr. Samer Abdul Hadi

Ophthalmologist and eye surgeon

Fellow of the College of Ophthalmologists - London

Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons - Glasgow

Diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons - Dublin

(General practitioner, Ain Shams University - Cairo.)

Announces the opening of his ophthalmic clinic

At Jordan (Al Urdun) Clinic, Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle, Tel. 612505.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Editorial and advertising offices:
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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

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Facsimile: 661242

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Getting the message right

CREDIT is certainly due to U.S. Senator Robert Dole and the delegation that accompanied him in the wake of their Middle Eastern tour which has just concluded. After admitting guilt and error in hastily adopting a resolution on Jerusalem by the U.S. Senate and pledging to correct that "mistake" right in the heart of Israel, the leader of the Republican minority in the U.S. Senate went on to tell Israeli officials and the Israeli public things that they seldom hear from Washington. In so many words, Senator Dole told his Israeli audience to their face that they were abusing American generosity dry and getting away with murder.

It is not preposterous, Dole suggested, that Israel had received over \$40 billion in the past 10 or 12 years at an average of \$10,000 per capita at a time when the blacks of South Africa could not average \$1 per capita? And is it not outrageous that Israel is still seeking \$400 million to settle new Jewish immigrants when U.S. war veterans have yet to be housed for lack of sufficient U.S. funds?

It is high time that Washington gathered enough courage to speak up against Israel's exploitation of the U.S. and its people, and what Senator Dole has just done and said will go a long way to reverse the picture that Arabs have of American lawmakers. The Arab people have always held similar views about the lopsided U.S.-Israeli relations as the ones just uttered by Senator Dole. Arab public opinion has almost given up on hope of Washington ever possessing the political, intellectual and moral courage to stand up to Israel and put a limit to its endless exploitation of U.S. friendship and generosity at the expense of U.S. national interests and the well-being of the average American. Finally, Dole drove home to the Israelis the message that enough is enough and that they had better stop acting as spoiled children clinging to the purse of their mother.

Such political courage as demonstrated by Senator Dole and his colleagues could very well end up being a big boost to chances of peace in the Middle East. Coming as they did in the wake of President George Bush's courageous statement on East Jerusalem as being an organic part of the occupied territories, Senator Dole's blunt pronouncements to the Israelis stand to stir their minds and hearts in the direction of what is also good for them in the long run. By asking the Israelis to wake up from their dreams and start accepting the realities surrounding them Dole is in effect serving them with timely advice.

Credit also goes to the Palestinian intifada and to the sound and steady Arab diplomacy for creating the necessary climate and setting in which Senator Dole's forthcoming views could have nurtured and developed. As the U.S. senator aptly told the Israelis, the intifada has brought home to the Americans the message that there are people out there struggling for freedom and liberation and the awakening of the U.S. conscience to the rights and aspirations of the Palestinians is something that can no longer be brushed aside. Surely, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his colleagues must be seething with anger and astonishment at the sound of Senator Dole's honest words. Their immediate strategy might be to concoct ways and means to frustrate his political future. But the best thing that Israeli politicians can do is to take note of what was said to them in the most direct and honest way possible and heed the message delivered to them on behalf of mainstream American policy and law makers.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily newspaper Monday asserted Jordan's pan-Arab commitment and said that the Kingdom will remain true to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, and will hasten to defend the Arab homeland in the face of any aggression. The Hashemite Kingdom has been upholding the standards of the Great Arab Revolt since its outbreak earlier this century because it believes that the revolt was for all Arabs and will serve as a continued process unlimited by time or place within the Arab region, the paper noted. This is clear from the Kingdom's policies in the international arena and is clear in King Hussein's endeavours and relentless work to serve the Arab Nation, the paper added. Jordan's stand in defence of the Arab rights and interests was lately manifested in its reaction to Israel's attempts to occupy Christian premises in the occupied city of Jerusalem and in its world-wide campaign to foil hostile campaigns directed on Iraq and also in its continued efforts to unify Arab ranks and end inter-Arab differences, the paper added. Jordan, the paper said, realises the serious dimension of Jewish immigration on the occupied Arab lands and will continue under King Hussein to bring to the world public opinion's attention the dimension of the seriousness of the situation and the danger to world peace inherent in Israel's continued practices.

Al Dastour daily praised the courageous stand of U.S. Senator Robert Dole who just ended a tour of the Middle East, announcing that the U.S. Senate's decision considering Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel was a blunder. The paper said that the senator who held talks with Arab leaders on the situation in the region, and later met Israeli government leaders has rekindled hope that the United States and the American people will after all wake up to the realities and adopt a more realistic stand vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict. We are surprised but at the same time satisfied with this development and consider Dole's statements in Israel and in Washington as a very favourable development, the paper noted. We are also satisfied, the paper said, with Dole's warning to Israel to reconsider its stand and take into account that the billions of dollars that pour into Israel in annual assistance cannot be expected to last for ever.

Weekly Political Pulse

Legal requirements for drafting new defence law

By Waleed Sadi

THE government, as promised, is going full speed in abolishing the controversial Defence Law of 1935 and all remnants of the Martial Law. The announcement by minister of interior that special legislation is being drafted to plug all loopholes that would be created when these two laws are repealed is certainly a sure sign that the government is in fact delivering on its pledge to phase out the Defence and Martial Laws. All jurists would agree that there is indeed a need to fill the vacuum that would be created by the abolition of these two emergency laws. It is also understandable that the government feels there is need for a ready-made defence law that can be put into effect under certain emergency situations affecting the security and stability of the country. What is perhaps lacking in this comprehensive arrangement is the fact that the suspended animation of this newly envisioned Defence Law would cease and its application would

become operative without the Jordanian Parliament having any say about it. True in an emergency situation the government must act with the utmost of speed and that the convening of Parliament to express its views on the matter may end up a long drawn out session.

However, there is still a way to reconcile the requirement to act expeditiously in an emergency situation and the advisability of consulting with the legislature. If the proposed law would provide for bypassing the Parliament in special emergency situations, like a state of war for example, and make the duration of this bypassing limited to, say a week or so, to be followed by an emergency session of the Parliament in order to endorse the application of the Defence Law, then it would be possible to achieve to objectives at the same time and reconcile what appears to be irreconcilable. This also entails the adoption of special procedural law for

holding emergency sessions for the Parliament under which normal parliamentary procedures would be suspended. Otherwise, normal parliamentary debates would consume so much valuable time and in the end frustrate the very objective, and need to act expeditiously in times of grave threats to the security and stability of the country. In such extraordinary situations, the Parliament would be expected to act diligently and to put national interest over party interests. If the legislature is to shoulder its responsibility with the other branches of the government in such circumstances, then it must act responsibly and speedily as well. As for the role of the judiciary branch of the Government there is still a need for further elaboration and spelling out of its part in all this new legislative improvisation.

The question that comes to mind in this context is whether the new Defence Law envis-

ages the creation of special courts to adjudicate the issues that will surely arise in times of emergency. This aspect needs also articulation in order to render the total picture more coherent.

Last but not least, our jurists who are concerned with the enactment of this Defence Law have yet to reckon with Jordan's treaty obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which went into force in 1976. Jordan has signed and ratified that international instrument in 1978 upon the direct recommendation of the late Prime Minister Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf. It would be most relevant to point out the salient features of that international treaty on the subject of emergency regulation. Article 4 of the Covenant reads as follows: "In time of public emergency which threatens the life of the nation and existence of which is officially proclaimed, the states parties of the present Covenant may take

measures derogating from their obligations under the present Covenant to the extent strictly required by the exigencies of the situation, provided that such measures are not inconsistent with their other obligations under international law and do not involve discrimination solely on the ground of race, colour, sex, language, religion or social origin." Sub-paragraph 2 of the said article stipulates that: "No derogation from Articles 6, 7, 8, 11, 15, 16 and 18 may be made under this provision." Article 6 speaks about the inadmissibility of arbitrary provisions depriving one of his life. Article 7 prohibits torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Article 8 prohibits slavery and servitude. Article 11 prohibits imprisonment merely on the ground of inability to fulfill a contractual obligation. Article 15 outlaws retroactive application of punishment. Article 16 stipulates the need to treat everyone as a person before the law.

And Article 18 protects the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. In other words none of these rights, can be suspended even in a situation of emergency. Equally relevant is sub-paragraph 3 of the said Article 4, which reads as follows: "Any state party to the present Covenant availing itself of the right of derogation shall immediately inform the other state parties to the present Covenant, through the intermediary of the Secretary General of the United Nations, of the provisions (of the Covenant) from which it has derogated and of the reasons by which it was activated. A further communication shall be made, through the same intermediary, on the date or which it terminated such derogation."

It is suggested here that our justice authorities become more aware of these legal requirements as they pursue the task of formulating the new Defence Law.

By Todd Lewan
The Associated Press

South America turns to moderates

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — Pressed to the wall by foreign debt, feverish inflation and stagnant economies, South Americans are rejecting radicalism and turning to moderate leaders to consolidate civilian rule.

When Fernando Collor de Mello and Patricio Aylwin became the presidents of Brazil and Chile in March, it was the first time all 12 South American republics were governed by popularly elected civilians.

In the past, the continent swung between strident pro-leftists and right-wing dictators, each promising solutions to social and economic crises.

Now, South Americans are abandoning radical rhetoric and taking painful steps to put their economic houses in order.

"History reveals that stable and effective democracies are those that present centrist options to the electorate," wrote Manuel D'Onofre, editor and columnist of The Expresso, a conservative daily in Lima, Peru's capital.

There is concern that if free-market economics and democra-

tic freedoms don't produce quick social gains, a power vacuum will open and trigger a left-right tug of war.

David Fleischer, regarded as one of the top political science experts in Brazil, cautioned: "South Americans have tried the dictators and the old-style conservatives. If this third group of free-market liberals goes down the drain, people will vote for the radical left in five years, which may well prompt a backlash from the military."

Fear of such an outcome already has translated into amnesty for past violations.

Uruguay and Argentina have pardoned military officers charged with human rights abuses. Brazil gave amnesty to leftist opponents of a 1964-1985 military regime, but did not consider prosecuting military chiefs accused of torture.

Leftist rebels have been released from jail and secret police agencies abolished.

As the political cease-fire between extremists continues, free-

market policies are gaining the upper hand across the continent.

Uruguay's new President Luis Lacalle implemented International Monetary Fund austerity measures, hammered out an accord with the second-largest party and stood up to two general strikes by the biggest labour confederation.

Polls show Argentine President Carlos Menem is still by far the most popular political figure despite severe austerity reforms, waves of strikes and dissent in his own party.

In Brazil, surveys show Collor's harsh economic plan has across-the-board backing of 80 per cent of the nation, while in Peru, studies say Peruvians are ready to accept a free-market economic shock to end current inflationary chaos.

Government coddling of local businesses, promoted by military rulers concerned with national security, is giving way as Argentina and Brazil strive to create a South American common market.

Economic liberalism also has been fostered by concern that the foreign aid funds of the United States and other countries are being diverted increasingly to Eastern Europe.

Latin American and Caribbean countries will receive \$350 million in U.S. aid this year, down from \$545 million in 1989.

Record inflation has given South American leaders the political leverage to take bold economic measures. Here is a brief country-by-country review:

Brazil

Though Collor narrowly defeated Socialist Luis Inacio Lula da Silva in December's runoff, he

has mustered considerable public and congressional support for a Draconian plan that includes an 18-month freeze on 80 per cent of all bank and investment savings, sharp tax and utility hikes, cuts in subsidies and tax incentives and civil service firings.

Argentina

To fend off hyperinflation, Menem shocked the labour-backed Peronist Party by hiking public service tariffs several hundred per cent, lifting wage, price and foreign exchange controls, confiscating bank deposits, slashing the government budget and moving to cut money-losing government enterprises.

Bolivia

Former President Victor Paz Estenssoro brought 24,000 per cent annual inflation inherited from a leftist government in 1985 down to 16 per cent in 1989 by freezing prices and the exchange rate, closing up money-losing government tin mines and loosening an oversized bureaucracy.

Socialist President Jaime Paz Zamora, Estenssoro's successor, recently announced conservative economic measures to attract foreign capital and sell state industries to private firms.

Chile

Centrist President-elect Patricio Aylwin says he won't discard the free-market structure set up by right-wing dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet, credited with keeping inflation down to 20 per cent a year and building the strongest economy in the hemisphere.

In an apparent referendum on Chile's economic strength, the left received only 23 per cent of the total vote in 1989 congressional elections — compared to 40 per cent before Pinochet's 1973 coup.

Peru

Five years of economic chaos under leftist President Alan Garcia bankrupted the country, pushed the cost of living up to 2,775 per cent in 1989, and blackened relations with the International Monetary Fund.

Novelist Mario Vargas Llosa, head of a conservative coalition, and centrist Alberto Fujimori are in a runoff election to succeed Garcia.

Venezuela

Re-elected President Carlos Andres Perez, outwardly leftist when in office a decade ago, recently announced IMF-like economic reforms. Dubbed Perestroika by some, the measures are designed to restructure the foreign debt and steer the country along a free-market path.

Guyana and Suriname

Mounting foreign debt, sharp declines in economic output and rising unemployment are forcing socialist leaders to shift economic gears.

Guyana's Prime Minister Hamilton Green now says "private enterprise doesn't conflict with socialism." His party has vigorously sought foreign capital and imposed unpopular fiscal measures to get a \$1-billion bailout from the IMF.

Ecuador

Though President Rodrigo Borja favours government-fixed exchange and interest rates, the center-leftist has welcomed foreign investment, kept the state's hands off major industries and declared himself an opponent of "inefficient" state-run enterprises and Marxism.

A disastrous showing by Liberals in 1988 parliamentary elections and two failed general strikes by the Marxist-oriented United Workers Front are reminders of the leftist weakness.

How long?

Doubts linger about how long South America's new moderates can convince the poor to swallow these austerity measures.

Venezuelans, weaned on 30 years of state subsidies, have already erupted in bloody protests. Riots last year left 300 people dead and recent protests over utility and gas hikes led to violent crackdowns on college campuses.

In Brazil, observers give Collor six months time to stop the 4,830 per cent annual inflation rate before his can-do image crumbles, and similar rumblings are being felt in Colombia and Guyana.

"If solutions don't come from within the system, people might look for solutions outside the system," warned Federico Storani, a leading congressman with the opposition Civic Radical Union in Argentina.

But many experts say these moderate leaders must probably will weather the storm.

There is growing public perception that conservative economic are the only way to cure chronic stagnation and inflation, and, unlike Eastern Europe, the move to free-market economics appears based on practicality rather than ideology.

LETTERS

Impossible judgment

To the Editor:

BEING one of the co-workers of Mother Teresa I was deeply hurt by the misleading title and the harsh introduction of your article "No peace of mind at the Home of Peace," dated March 28, 1990. It is difficult if not impossible to pass such a judgment about the Home of Peace from one or two visits.

The writer made no mention of the dedication, sacrifice and hard-work put in hour by hour, day by day by the nuns, who have chosen to live the life of the "poorest of the poor" dictated by Mother Teresa. These nuns have given up everything in order to take care of the patients asking for nothing in return and being firm in their belief never to turn away anyone who is in need of food and shelter despite the poor resources and limited space available.

Also neglected in the article were the many individuals who offer their time, money and resources to keep the patients alive and contented. It is donations such as these which keep the Home of Peace running.

It is very important to mention also that a second branch of the Home of Peace was established in Ruseifa and is now in operation catering for needy, handicapped children. The children are therefore taken care of in a very pleasant and healthy atmosphere away from the "life of misery" with the elderly mentioned in the article.

Furthermore, allow me to point out that patients at the home are happy and conditions are quite satisfactory. They are taken care of, sheltered, fed, clothed and loved. Considering that the alternative is a life on the streets or an earlier death, the Home of Peace definitely does provide "peace of mind".

So instead of naive criticism, a more worthwhile pastime would be to lead a helping hand.

Believe me, it is much needed and will be greatly appreciated.

Lonely Mousasher

(on behalf of the co-workers of Mother Teresa).

The eleventh finger

To the Editor:

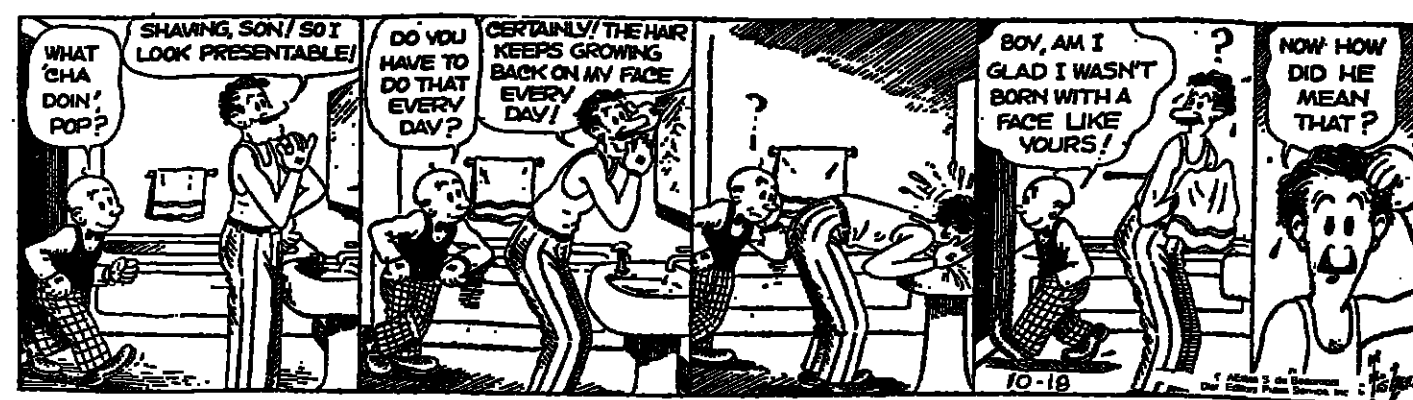
WHEN the latest report on the catastrophic effect of smoking was unleashed on us only last week, doctors and scientists reported that in the next ten to twenty years some 500 million people will die directly or indirectly from smoking. Well, did anyone receive this message here? From the drama series showing now in the holy month of Ramadan if an actor is not seen holding or striking a match to a cigarette it is verging on a miracle! The message is its more natural to be with one than without. Considering how popular such programmes are amongst the general population. Its truly frightening to think of the young watching this filthy dangerous habit being so glamorised.

The hero of one particular serial is seen chain-smoking from one episode to another and blowing the smoke past a string of young women all pledging their undying love for him. Doesn't it make you wonder what sort of representations this is implanting in the sub-conscious of the young and vulnerable, who will be identifying in their dreams and fantasies with these characters.

Perhaps on completion of this letter it will serve as an obituary to the leading actor, because he the hero will be just another statistic and all who loved and lost will be shortly following on behind.

Lorraine Kurdi,
Amman.

Mutt'n'Jeff

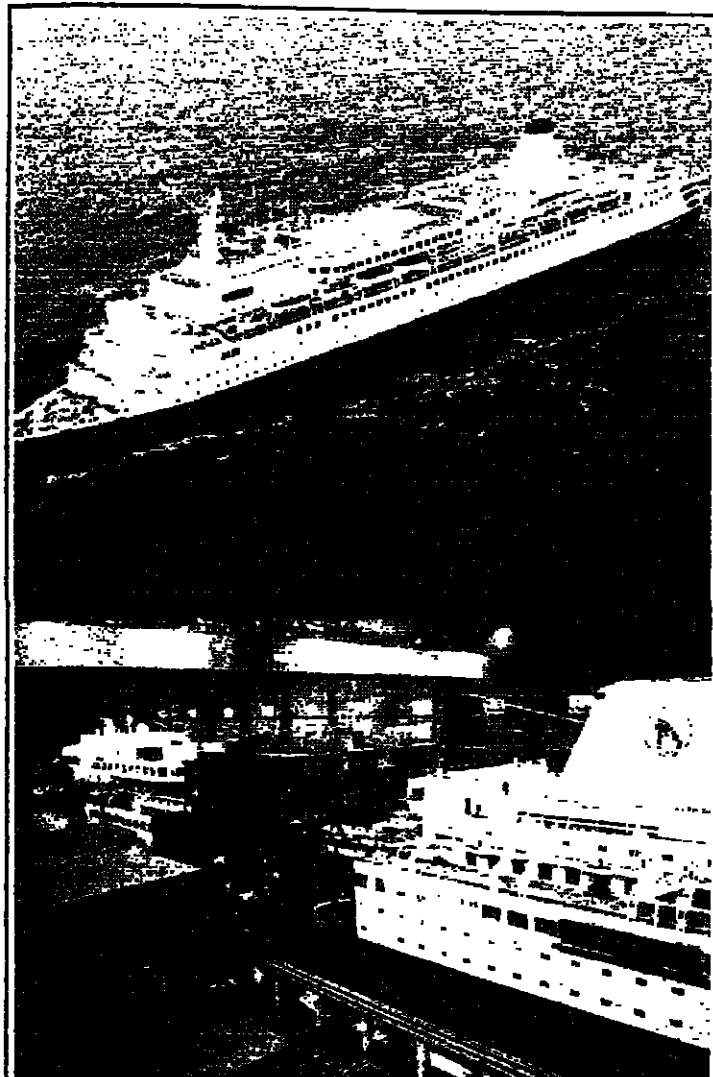


Andy Capp



Peanuts





The American cruiser Westerdam was lengthened 40 metres amidships at the Meyer Werft shipyard in Papenburg, the Federal Republic of Germany, which boasts the world's largest covered shipbuilding dock. Papenburg, on the Ems, is over 30 kilometres from the North Sea (Photo: DaD/dpa).

Elongating ships — German way

By Eberhard Nitschke

PAPENBURG (DaD) — When the Holland America Line's cruise ship Westerdam set sail from north Germany across the Atlantic to the United States in March, it was 40 metres longer than when it had arrived in Europe. The Seattle-based line's luxury cruiser now has 747 cabins, as against its previous 552, and its crew now number 642, or 180 more than before. The liner was lengthened amidships at the world's largest covered shipbuilding dock, the Meyer Werft in Papenburg. No, not in Hamburg and not in Bremen, and not even on the coast. Papenburg is a small town near the Dutch border, 30 kilometres inland on the Ems. But its jumbo dock is 270 metres long, 100 metres wide and 60 metres tall. It comfortably housed the Westerdam.

Lengthening ships to any length required is a speciality of the Papenburg yard, which has a longstanding tradition of successful innovation. While other shipyards in the Federal Republic of Germany, not to mention other European countries, often face hard times, the Meyer Werft, nearly 200 years old, and its payroll of roughly 2,000 have orders in hand for years ahead. Newbuildings and conversion work range from cruise ships and passenger ferries to gas tankers and cattle freighters; a ship recently completed was built to carry 70,000 sheep. Many local suppliers rely on the Papenburg shipyard's contracts. So the authorities seem sure to continue investing heavily in widening and deepening the shipping lane in the Ems. A new lock has been built to allow ships with a draught of up to seven metres (23ft) to sail upstream to Papenburg from the Dollart, a bay in the North Sea that lies between Emden and the Dutch coastline.

Abu Jihad killing marked

(Continued from page 1)

arrested, they added. A Swiss woman tourist was hit in the head by a rock when Palestinians, who thought she was a Jewish settler, stoned her car near Bethlehem. The woman was not seriously hurt but all the car windows were smashed. Residents of Tekoa village apologised for the attack. The death of Abu Jihad was blamed on Israel, but the government has never acknowledged responsibility. The slaying of Abu Jihad in Tunis set off protests in 1988 that left 17 Palestinians dead. That death toll is the highest for one day in the 28-month Palestinian uprising. Abu Jihad was gunned down at his Tunis home April 16, 1988, by

masked commandos in an assassination that appeared to bear the hallmarks of Israel's Mossad secret service. Israel regarded Abu Jihad as the key planner of dozens of resistance operations inside Israel. Israeli sources also stressed his role in the Palestinian revolt.

Yarmouk protests

About 150 students marched at Yarmouk University Monday to commemorate the anniversary of the killing of Abu Jihad, an official source said. The demonstrators at Yarmouk University, about 80 kilometres north of Amman, chanted slogans in praise of Abu Jihad and in support of the Palestinian uprising.

Lithuania ready to compromise

(Continued from page 1)

would be sent to Gorbachev Monday evening and the republic's parliament, due to resume its session Tuesday, would send a separate reply. Algirdas Brazauskas deputy prime minister and leader of the republic's Communist Party which broke links with its Soviet comrades last year, told Radio Vilnius the government was examining its options if a blockade were imposed. He said lack of specifics had made it difficult to adopt any decisions or contingency plans. Prunskiene's telegram, sent later in the day, said her government saw no reason to "justify a worsening of economic relations, all the more so that this would not affect Lithuania alone." "Moreover, we do not understand the content of the economic sanctions alluded to and would not like to give false explanations to our people and to the world," the telegram said. "Given these conditions, we see no way to resolve these questions other than Moscow urgently meeting a Lithuanian govern-

ment delegation headed by the prime minister." There was no sign of any attempt to put into force Moscow's threat to end supplies of such goods, including oil, gas and other raw materials scarce in the republic. Prunskiene's telegram addressed the three points denounced in Gorbachev's letter — the Lithuanian parliament's appeal to boycott the military call-up, the introduction of "citizenship certificates" and disputes over the Communist Party property. It repeated Lithuania's willingness to allow young men wishing to serve in the Soviet army to do so and said the republic could consider adopting a law guaranteeing the rights of resident Soviet citizens. Authorities wished to settle questions linked to borders, the telegram said, and were prepared to examine disputes over property which Lithuania claimed as its own following its independence proclamation. These included buildings occupied by Lithuania's Communists who broke away.

Perestroika takes roots in N. Ireland prison

By Marcus Eliason
The Associated Press

MAGHABERRY, Northern Ireland — In the computer studies room at Maghaberry prison, a convict taps away at a braille typewriter, preparing a text for the blind. Bobby Bates was one of the "Shankill butchers," a Protestant murder squad whose throat-cutting atrocities against Roman Catholics exceeded even Northern Ireland's savage standards. Thirteen years into a life sentence for 10 murders, with a history of violent behaviour behind bars, 42-year-old "Basher" Bates comes across as a changed man. He works and eats alongside Catholic prisoners. He says he has embraced the Christian faith. He makes no excuses for his crimes. The new Bobby Bates is a product of Maghaberry prison, which opened in 1986 as an alternative lockup for inmates who want to leave the "paramilitary" milieu, learn a skill and one day return to a peaceful life outside prison.

Left behind in the older Maze prison outside Belfast are the truly committed, still segregating themselves into republican (Catholic) and loyalist (Protestant) cellblocks, still refusing to work or do anything else that could be read as acknowledging that their offences were criminal, not political.

Simply by choosing Maghaberry instead of the Maze, a prisoner tacitly signals that he is removing himself from the battleground, and rehabilitation can begin.

Maghaberry is part of the quiet transformation of Northern Ireland's prison system in the decade since the Maze was seething with protest — a time when 10 inmates, led by Bobby Sands of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), captured world attention by fasting to death.

Segregation

The government has always seen self-imposed segregation as a perpetuation of the conflict between Republicans fighting to rid Northern Ireland of British rule, and loyalists fighting to maintain the union with Britain. Attempts to force integration have invariably met resistance.

Indeed, the one jail where tension persists is Belfast prison, where some 650 pre-trial inmates are demanding segregation. Several Belfast wardens have been beaten in recent months, and four have been fired, prosecuted or suspended since 1983 for mistreating prisoners. A mass breakout was foiled last October. Since Maghaberry opened, 164 Maze prisoners have chosen to go there. There are now about 275 prisoners in Maghaberry and 520 in the Maze.

Had Bobby Bates not moved to Maghaberry, he would probably stay in jail for the rest of his life as recommended by the judge. Now he may stand a chance of being paroled before the next century. Maghaberry became fully operational only two years ago, so it is too early to say how successful it will be.

But the prison service feels sufficiently confident to have invited four foreign journalists to visit Maghaberry and the Maze last month and chat in private

with prisoners. The only condition was that no prison officials be identified, because they are targets for assassination.

"I think the government is anxious to get the prisoners out as much as anybody else," says the Rev. Denis Faul, a Catholic priest and human rights activist who keeps in close contact with jailers and prisoners' families.

"There are very many people in prison, both from the Protestant and the Catholic side, who would not normally be in prison ... for any type of crime other than a politically motivated crime," Faul said in an interview.

Nearly 2,800 people in Northern Ireland have died in sectarian violence since 1969. But in recent years, the violence has abated.

The number of sentenced security offenders, once forecast to reach 3,000, is about 800. Many of them were jailed 10 or more years ago, and the government has been persuaded that at least some can be freed without risk.

Better chances

Well-behaved prisoners with release dates are eligible for a week's furlough at summer and Christmas. Some prisoners incarcerated in Britain have been moved to Northern Ireland to be closer to their families. Most prisoners on fixed sentences can ex-

"Because it's saying, forget your republicanism and become part of a criminal system," said an IRA lifer. "But we are not criminal prisoners. We are political prisoners."

'Abuses'

IRA supporters argue that the journalists' visit is a propaganda exercise, that abuses do occur in Belfast prison and at police interrogation centers.

At a broader level, they maintain that Britain has no right to be in Ireland at all, let alone jail people who see themselves as freedom fighters.

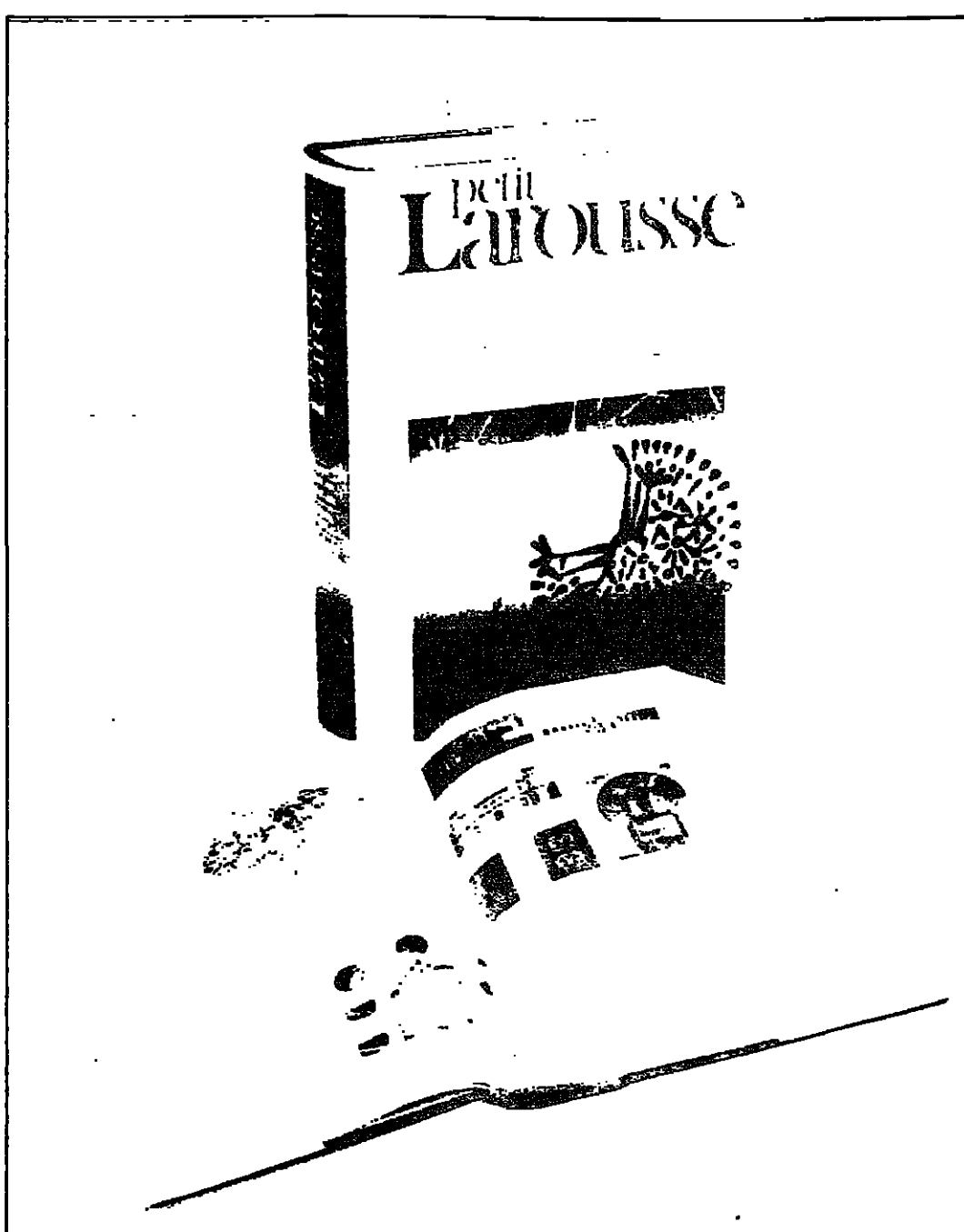
"We say Northern Ireland as a concept is illegal and should never have been set up," said a Maze Republican, on whose cell wall hung portraits of Che Guevara and Christ.

The conversation kept moving back to 1983, when 38 prisoners escaped from the Maze in a mass breakout and 19 of them were quickly recaptured. One of the escapees described being beaten and set upon by dogs.

The prison service doesn't deny the abuses, but says they happened in the immediate aftermath of the breakout, and that violence was perpetuated by both sides, leaving one prison officer dead and several injured.

A spokesman said the abuses couldn't occur in the current cli-

Left behind in the older Maze prison outside Belfast are the truly committed, still segregating themselves into republican (Catholic) and loyalist (Protestant) cellblocks, still refusing to work or do anything else that could be read as acknowledging that their offences were criminal, not political.



'Let's see what Larousse says'

By Philippe Chevalier

THE ILLUSTRATED "Petit Larousse" comes off the press every year, just at the time when the new wine is pressed, and, at the end of the summer holidays, just before school begins, it holds a choice position in bookshop windows. This very French institution, with its famous slogan "Je sème à tout vent" (I sow to the four winds), recently celebrated 85 years of existence. Today, French people no longer say "Let's look it up in a dictionary," but "Let's see what it says in the Larousse."

This encyclopaedic dictionary is the work of some 20 linguists and specialists in all fields of knowledge. "They keep up to date with new words, every day," Régine Lemer, in charge of Larousse's press department, explains. "They glean words from the press, literature and television. They then make a meticulous, vigilant selection, so as not to omit anything essential, but also to avoid being caught out by fashions."

Concerning the correct usage of language, these dictionary-compilers base themselves on the recommendations of the Académie Française. In certain litigious cases, particularly when it comes to modernising spelling, they go towards cautious reform (which has more and more supporters), but still taking account of the opinions of the learned assembly.

In 1988, the illustrated "Petit Larousse" beat its sales records with 1,300,000 copies

sold. It must be said that year the work was deeply rejuvenated with a face-lift. Its format became longer. Its layout was entirely renewed. A more modern typography was adopted. Its maps were redone by computer. There were 5,500 new words, and a certain number of out-dated expressions were removed.

With some 60,000 definitions, the 1990 version of the illustrated "Petit Larousse" aims to present terms whose meaning and use a man of today should be able to know. In addition to the words of common language, considerable space is given to the numerous and varied terms and meanings which one comes across in the large areas of contemporary culture, and to those coming from specialised fields or ones which have gone beyond their original area in the way they are used today.

The "Petit Larousse" has become the work of reference, the uncontested conciliation magistrate for word-game fans, crossword puzzles, scrabble, spelling competitions, etc. Its authority prevails to settle any argument in these areas.

Its success bears witness to the extension of culture in France, but also all over the world as Larousse sells its rights in a dozen countries and it is sold in as many languages. This is proof that an ever increasing public needs this witness of past culture, the evolution of spoken and written language and the transformation of the modern world.

The 1990 edition of the illustrated "Petit Larousse" contains 141 additions: 77 words, 22 new meanings, and 42 proper nouns. Glasnost and Perestroika make their appearance, as well as "cryoconservation" (preservation by the cold, particularly with living tissues) and "le Barefoot" (for barefoot water-skiing).

The "Joujoutheque", borrowed from France's Canadian cousins, makes a pretty replacement for the bizarre "Ludotheque," while the "Quimboiseur," the West Indian witchdoctor, casts his spell among the "Q's." The Larousse now authorises the verbs "buller" (to remain idle) or "zoner" (to live on the fringe of society). One can now watch a "soap opera" in French on television or prefer a programme about "narcodollars" (profit made from drugs).

In the proper noun section new words include Akhito, the new Emperor of Japan, Maurice Allais, the famous French economist, Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Sergei Bubka, the Soviet pole-vaulter, Christian Lacroix, the French couturier, Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister and Ayrton Senna, the Brazilian racing-driver.

Steffi Graf, the young West-German tennis player also gains the envied fame of being in the Petit Larousse.

"Great! My Mum is sure going to be pleased!" the young sportswoman exclaimed when she learnt she would be in it — L'Actualité en France.

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Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and UAE meet in bid to bolster oil market

DUBAI (Agencies) — Stung by a dramatic slump in the price of crude, oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will meet Tuesday in a new OPEC move to bolster the market.

Western oil company executives say the three Gulf states are the most prominent among the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) 13 members to have exceeded their mandated production quotas, threatening a glut.

But Saudi Arabia, the biggest exporter, now seems to feel it is time to discuss turning down the taps to mop up some of the excess from an amply-supplied market.

"The kingdom of Saudi Arabia is worried about the deterioration in oil prices in the world market," Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said Monday, according to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

The agency broke the news that Nazer would meet Kuwait's Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah and Mana Saeed Al Oteiba of the UAE in Jeddah Tuesday.

This followed several days of feverish telephone calls among ministers of OPEC as prices tumbled.

Last Wednesday New York futures for the U.S. benchmark crude west Texas intermediate dropped as low as \$16.25 per barrel — their weakest in 14 months and a fall of \$7 since the start of the year.

They then rallied a little on reports that OPEC might act.

Total OPEC output has recently run at between 23.5 and 24 million barrels per day (BPD), exceeding underlying demand by as much as two million BPD, market analysts say.

Supplies in the United States are so high that storage space is running out.

While some nations such as



Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE exceeded output limits, others, particularly Iran, have had to dump oil on the spot market in order to meet their quotas.

Gulf-based industry sources said contract obligations made it unlikely the Gulf states could cut back at once, but cuts could be made in May.

Unconfirmed reports said Abu Dhabi, the biggest producer in the UAE, might cut by around 200,000 BPD in May for maintenance on its offshore fields.

Peter Nicol, an oil analyst with Warburg Securities in London, said the Gulf producers "have to play a game with market psychology now."

"They cannot change the very short term fundamentals. But they can signal that some production cuts are to come and perhaps persuade people to absorb higher stocks."

An Easter Monday holiday muted European reaction but one trader reckoned that quotes ticked up by perhaps 25 cents in reaction to the Saudi statement.

But he thought a real gain in prices "is only possible if something comes out of the meeting."



Mana Saeed Al Oteiba

Saudi Arabia needs to persuade Kuwait and Abu Dhabi to cut production and it has to decide to control production. But can you see that happening?

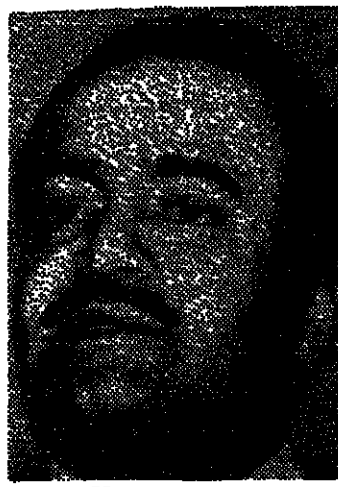
Gulf oil industry sources said reluctance among the Gulf states, especially Saudi Arabia, to cut output stems from fears of losing market share.

The SPA said the Jeddah meeting would "review the recent drop in oil prices."

Earlier speculation had centred on the possibility of emergency talks involving all 13 OPEC members ahead of a scheduled meeting in Geneva May 25. But Gulf-based analysts said Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE were apparently against that.

Mari Buglass, an analyst in London with trading house Shearson Lehman Hutton, said a full gathering might just result in "verbal fisticuffs" over allegations of over-production.

Analysts in the Gulf meanwhile said that the market might look firmer by the end of May, if there are some production cuts soon and ahead of the seasonal rise in gasoline demand during the northern hemisphere summer



Hisham Nazer

holidays.

The UAE has in effect opted out of OPEC quota system calling it unfair. But it sets its own limit of two million BPD while Oil Minister Oteiba says there is "a red line" below which prices will not be allowed to fall.

Industry sources say Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have exceeded quotas by 300,000 to half a million BPD each, although some of the Saudis' oil may have gone to their own storage — not counted under OPEC rules.

In early May, oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait will meet in Riyadh for further oil market consultations.

Riyadh appoints governor

Saudi Arabia has appointed a senior government official to OPEC's board of governors, replacing former Deputy Oil Minister Abdul Aziz Al Turki, a Saudi official said Monday.

The new governor, Suleiman Al Harbi, is assistant undersecretary at the Saudi Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, he said.

Saudi Arabia, Japan move closer to oil deals

TOKYO (R) — The idea of Saudi Arabia invading Japan's downstream oil market once evoked image of a desert marauder here. Now it conjures visions of a long-sought oasis.

Fear that oil reserves outside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) are drying up is making Japanese refiners eager to secure stable crude supplies from the Gulf, oil industry officials said.

Japanese refiners are scrambling to strike direct deals with Saudi Arabia, which claims the world's largest proven oil reserves, as concern grows about possible shortages later this decade, they said.

Direct deals refer to long-term deals struck directly with producers. In the past, Japanese refiners have bought much of their oil through traders.

But faced with forecasts of a new oil crisis, they are courting Middle East oil producers, especially Saudi Arabia, with promises of a stable market and participation in the Japanese mainstream — the marketing of refined products — in return for guaranteed supplies.

"If you take a long-term view and prepare for bullish oil markets in the 1990s, I don't see why refiners shouldn't zero in on Saudi Arabia and go for direct deals," said Tsutomu Toichi, chief economist at Japan's Institute of Energy Economics.

"The Saudis also want to boost business with Japan. They want to lock in their oil sales in Asia in addition to Europe and the U.S. their immediate target is to return to the position of Japan's top crude suppliers," Toichi said.

Recently the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has supplanted Saudi Arabia as the largest crude exporter to Japan.

Saudi Arabia says it has the globe's largest proven reserves of 252 billion barrels. Its ability to offer a wide range of crude from extra light to heavy grades is also attractive to Japanese refiners.

In the past, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) has used the threat of participation by Saudi Arabia in refining and marketing in Japan to force Japanese oil firms, fragile by world standards, into fewer, stronger groups.

But MITI is now focusing more on long-term supply security, especially since experts point to the increasing role of OPEC producers as stable suppliers.

An official visit to Tokyo by Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer in January gave impetus to a strengthening of ties between the world's largest oil exporter and the world's second-largest oil consumer.

MITI officials say they are speeding up efforts to forge closer links with Gulf producers, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the

UAE. Industry analysts estimate these three have more than 45 per cent the world's proven oil reserves.

Naoki Kuroda, director-general of MITI's petroleum department, recently told Reuters he will confer with Saudi Arabian officials in June on Saudi entry into Japan's downstream market as part of several rounds of planned informal talks.

Reciprocal arrangement

The Saudi Oil Ministry and MITI are seeking a reciprocal arrangement through which Saudi Arabia offers stable oil supply in exchange for a secure market and downstream participation.

World crude oil prices tumbled last week, but Japanese refinery officials say they are looking further into the future.

Cosmo Oil Company Ltd started buying crude oil under a direct deal with Saudi Arabia this month following the lead of Idemitsu Kosan Company Ltd which signed a term contract last October.

Oil industry sources said Nippon Oil Company Ltd. may consider contracting to buy directly from Saudi Arabia in the future. It started lifting 80,000 barrels per day (BPD) through Caltech Petroleum Corp. a 50/50 joint venture between majors Chevron Corp. and Texaco Inc.

Saudi Arabia is seeking a joint-venture partner in Asia to refine its own crude and sell petrol and other products.

One of Japan's problems is that it has no single company able to match the functions of oil majors, which explore for, develop, produce, transport, refine and market oil.

"The Saudis are not expecting a quick conclusion. First they want to make good friends who can guide them into the downstream market," a source familiar with Saudi Arabian business said. Saudi Arabia's joint venture with Texaco to refine and sell oil in the U.S., called Star Enterprise, posted revenues of \$6.3 billion in its first year ended last December.

Saudi Arabia wants to launch similar operations in Japan, oil sources said. It hopes to reach basic agreement with MITI by the end of the year to pave the way for Saudi investment in a refinery, said an oil industry manager who visited Riyadh earlier this year.

But a source close to Saudi Arabia said he believed the kingdom would wait until it could find a first-class partner.

MITI wants to link Saudi investment in Japan with extension of oil concessions held by Japan's Arabian Oil Company Ltd in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait into the next century.

IBM's first-quarter profit rises to \$1.04b

NEW YORK (R) — International Business Machines (IBM) Corp. said Monday that its earnings rose to \$1.04 billion in the first quarter, a 9.2 per cent rise and unexpectedly good results that cheered Wall Street.

The world's number one computer maker cited good demand across its product line.

The Armonk, New York company said first-quarter revenues rose 11.4 per cent to \$14.19 billion from \$12.73 billion in the year-earlier period.

IBM reported period earnings of \$1.81 a share, compared with

\$950 million or \$1.61 a share in the first quarter of 1989. The pre-share increase was larger than the overall profits rise due to a decline in the number of outstanding shares.

The improved profits were posted amid a slowdown in the U.S. computer industry.

"Our strategy of listening to our customers and improving the competitiveness of our products and services is working," said IBM Chairman John Akers in a statement.

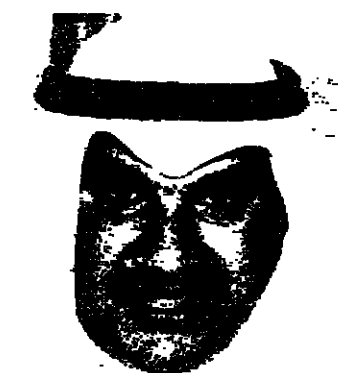
Wall Street apparently agreed, as investors rushed in to snap up IBM shares. They were up \$3.875

at \$111 in early trading on the New York stock exchange.

Akers said the company was focusing investments to take advantage of opportunities in the industry while improving products.

Industry analysts had forecast that IBM would post as many as 15,000 jobs by year end in an effort to boost profits.

The company had previously been vague about its earnings prospects for 1990, after reporting disappointing earnings for the fourth quarter and for all of 1989 largely because of a \$2.42 billion restructuring charge.



Sheikh Salem

Kuwait reports 61 per cent increase in oil revenues

KUWAIT (AP) — The governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah, Saturday reported a 61 per cent increase in oil sector revenues in 1989 over the previous year.

He told the daily Al Anbaa that the share of the oil sector in the gross national product (GNP) jumped from 1,719 million dinars (\$6 billion) in 1988 to 2,772 million dinars (\$9.7 billion) in 1989.

He attributed the increase to an expansion in Kuwaiti oil exports and increases in oil prices since 1986, when the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) clamped a production ceiling for its 13 member states designed to push prices up to \$18 a barrel. That ended a price war that had pushed oil prices down to as low as \$7 a barrel.

The government cited the rise in Kuwait's oil revenues as indicative of economic recovery in this oil-rich country after a period of stagnation and relative inflation, also induced by the 1982 collapse of the stock market.

"If we take this development into account we cannot say the Kuwaiti economy has been experiencing recession over the past three years," Sheikh Salem said.

However, Sheikh Salem, who heads a government panel entrusted with activating the national economy, said certain economic sectors in the country are still suffering from stagnation.

He noted that the government was dependent on public borrowing to cover the budget deficits since 1987 and has not drawn on the state's reserves. He put the size of public borrowing at 2.7 billion dinars (\$9.45 billion) at present.

Three-tiered price system possible in Soviet Union

MOSCOW (R) — Prices of Soviet goods, to be raised as the country moves towards a market economy, are to be grouped into three categories with varying degrees of state control, a senior official has said.

State Prices Committee Chairman Vyacheslav Senchagov said the increases would begin at some point this year but in different phases to protect low-income groups.

In an interview with the Communist Party daily Pravda, Senchagov said the state would continue to set prices for key commodities such as oil, gas, coal and ferrous metals but these would take account of currently higher prices on world markets.

"The state will retain, quite naturally, the right to establish prices for basic goods which have an effect on the conditions in which industry operates and on the level of retail prices," he told the daily.

A second group, he said, would be subject to "regulated prices" — which could rise and fall within prescribed limits. He did not specify which goods these would cover, but said fluctuations would defend on productivity and the relation between supply and demand.

The last group, also unspecified, would be subject to free prices.

Price rises are part of the economic reform that President Mikhail Gorbachev has placed at the top of his policy agenda, with detailed plans expected to be announced soon. His policy-meeting presidential council meets this weekend.

On Thursday, Pavel Bunich, chairman of the parliament's commission on economic reform, said that prices could double within a year and suggested that 70 per cent of the state sector could be denationalised.

ECONOMIC NEWS IN BRIEF

UAE telecom firm reports profit

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) telecommunications firm Etisalat reported a 17.5 per cent rise in net profits for 1989. Etisalat said in a statement Saturday that profits rose to 787 million dirhams (\$214 million) from 669.9 million (\$182 million) in 1988. It announced a cash dividend of 597 million dirhams (\$157 million), amounting to 40 per cent of its capital of 1.49 billion (\$407 million). Etisalat has established in 1976 and has since taken 40 per cent of the firm public. Its monopoly of telecommunications services has allowed it to stay highly profitable while cutting fees to subscribers.

Turkey finds oil in new well

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has struck oil in a new well near the southeastern town of Kahta. State Minister Mehmet Koceler said Monday. "The Turkish Petroleum Corporation (TPAO) has found oil in a new well which will produce 1,200 barrels per day," Koceler told the opening session of a Turkish Petroleum Congress. Turkey, which consumes 21.5 million tonnes of oil a year, produced 2.88 million tonnes of crude, mainly in the southeast areas bordering Iran, Iraq and Syria, in 1989. More than 2,000 people have been killed in the southeast since the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) launched its independence campaign six years ago. Kahta is outside the PKK's normal theatre of operations. About 25 oil firms are currently operating in Turkey, most of them affiliates of foreign companies, including N.V. Turkish Shell and Arco Turkey Inc. Chevron International LTD (Turkey) is likely to decide next month whether to go ahead with a \$10.3 million search for oil in the southeast near the Iraqi frontier, the sources said.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Reuters

TOKYO — Tokyo share prices closed broadly down, but off their lows, on index-linked and general selling in scant trading. An anaemic yen and the Easter holidays overseas kept volume low. The Nikkei Index shed 750.74 points, or 2.57 per cent, to close at 28,463.18.

SINGAPORE — The Straits Times Industrial Index inched up 5.75 points to close at 1,530.97 because of a last-minute rally in selective index-linked stocks, brokers said.

BOMBAY — The Bombay Stock Exchange was closed to enable stockbrokers to complete business deals done over the past two weeks. Trading resumes Tuesday. The Bombay Index slumped 32.38 points Thursday to 748.79.

NEW YORK — The Dow Jones Industrial Index moved ahead more than 27 points in the first 40 minutes of trading to 2,779 in reaction to IBM's higher-than-expected first quarter net. IBM and other technology stocks led the rally.

The share markets in Sydney, Hong Kong, Frankfurt, Zurich, Paris and London were all closed for the Easter Monday holiday.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY APRIL 17, 1990

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Flighter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day when promises made by, or to you, are very apt to be broken beyond the control of anyone involved, so don't be hard either on yourself or others if conditions change.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be alert early to all kinds of interesting new situations that arise and bring possibility of advancement, then avoid argument over money.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are able to get a better perspective where you are headed in your practical affairs, then don't get into personalities; later charm all about you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Contract conservative and unconventional outsiders for ideas to further your worldly aims, then avoid secret anger but later be with social charmers.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can discuss and come to interesting conclusions with few associates about future activities, then don't argue with good friends.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have all kinds of brilliant ideas for putting in motion your special talents early, then avoid a demanding executive; later make new associates.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Private conferences with all sorts of influential men can bring

you solutions to your problems, avoid a prejudiced newcomer; tonight do what mate appreciates.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Letting good friends know your basic personal goals gives them the chance to support your efforts, then don't make financial commitment; later join friends.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Put yourself in a position to get favours from those in positions of power and you make headway, then avoid a bumptious partner; later consult fine friends.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be alert to new outlets by which you can zoom ahead and don't get bogged down in a discussion about usual duties; tonight to what mate most enjoys.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Driving towards the biggest plan of security you can conceive can bring you real progress in that direction but don't waste time on trivialities.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Older men in prominent positions in all walks of life today see your best points and will back your wishes so don't stay home and fuss about conditions.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can take the best from the best and add modern and current conditions so that your environment is much improved but don't wander about aimlessly.

THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas

ACROSS	DOWN
1 US playwright	10 Servants
6 Kings	14 Sphere
10 Servants	15 Gen. Bradley
14 Sphere	16 Family
15 Gen. Bradley	17 Lure film
16 Family	18 (with "The")
17 Lure film	20 Units of meas.
18 (with "The")	21 Family
20 Units of meas.	22 Veggie
21 Family	23 Sped
22 Veggie	24 Chiang's
23 Sped	25 Part of some
24 Chiang's	26 Connections
25 Part of some	27 "has — and hungry
26 Connections	28 Golf club
27 "has — and hungry	29 Mine car
28 Golf club	30 Control knob
29 Mine car	31 Skirts
30 Control knob	32 In good shape
31 Skirts	33 Caution fig.
32 In good shape	34 Money for
33 Caution fig.	35 Gem portion
34 Money for	36 Place in
35 Gem portion	37 Upright
36 Place in	38 Zoo beast
37 Upright	39 Robbers
38 Zoo beast	40 Krishna
39 Robbers	41 Cleveland's
40 Krishna	42 Lake part
41 Cleveland's	43 Annie Oakley
42 Lake part	44 Foulard
43 Annie Oakley	45 Jog
44 Foulard	46 Varsity
45 Jog	47 Titan and
46 Varsity	48 Triton
47 Titan and	49 Key personnel
48 Triton	50 Foreign
49 Key personnel	51 Undergo
50 Foreign	52 chemical
51 Undergo	53 change
52 chemical	54 Auto type
53 change	55 Sparta's rival
54 Auto type	56 Fad
55 Sparta's rival	57 Legends
56 Fad	58 Silver fish
57 Legends	59 Pile drink
58 Silver fish	60 Disney film
59 Pile drink	61 Pipe valve
60 Disney film	
61 Pipe valve	

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

WANT SAFE AFTER
DONOR BLAY BLAY
PREFERRABLE FORTUNE
CLUBBING PRINCESTON
VIBRANT AESTHETIC
REVERENT SILENT
STYLISH COFFEE TALK
YOUNG MAN PROVERB
LOAN ARTIST ENACT
GOLDEN EYE
RAP TITAN VET
ASSASSIN MURDER
VEINER BALANCE
DRAKE TITAN BALL
WRESTLE EARTH JETSET

Indonesia set to get same amount of aid

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia, saddled with one of the biggest foreign debts in the developing world, can expect another massive infusion of aid this year, visiting Netherlands Development Minister Jan Pronk said Saturday.

"Indonesia has really taken off as a developing country on the path to sustainable economic growth... everybody agrees that Indonesia during the last couple of years had a very good economic performance," he told reporters at the end of a nine-day visit.

He also allayed concern his country might tie aid to Jakarta's human-rights record by signing new loans that had been delayed after an uproar in the Dutch parliament over Indonesia's execution in February of four long-term prisoners.

The four had been on death row for more than 20 years for their role in an abortive coup in 1965.

Pronk chairs Indonesia's Donor Club of Industrial Countries and International Agencies, the intergovernmental group on Indonesia, which will meet in June to decide on aid for the current financial year, which began in April.

He said, "the total sum of aid to be pledged... will amount to about the same amount as last year (a record \$4.3 billion) or perhaps... a tiny bit higher."

More will be in project aid while special assistance, untied aid for balance-of-payments support, will be below last year's \$1.8 billion, he said without giving figures.

The World Bank last year pre-

dicted 1990-91 special assistance would be \$1.2 billion while the Indonesian budget targets about \$1.6 billion.

Pronk said he would act as a broker for Jakarta to help it get enough aid to carry out its economic policies and produce reasonable economic growth and sharply reduced poverty among the world's fifth largest population, 180 million people.

He warned donors against cutting aid for the Third World when giving help to Eastern Europe. "Foreign assistance to Eastern European countries should not substitute aid flows to countries such as Indonesia... which have carried out a key good domestic development policy and really deserve further support to continue that development policy," he said.

Commenting on his talks here on the executions and his appeal for clemency for six other death-row inmates linked to the attempted coup, Pronk said: "I am quite pleased with the reaction I've received."

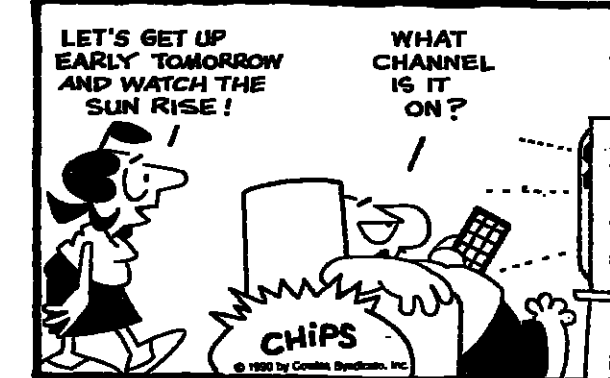
He declined to detail Indonesia's response.

Jakarta had initially been indignant over what it saw as an attempt by its former colonial rulers to meddle in its domestic affairs.

As Pronk was speaking, a group of 30 students protested outside the Dutch embassy, in another part of the city, demanding donors be more strict in providing aid, which they said the government used to repress the people.

"Your aid is our AIDS," said one banner.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CHULG	
HIDUM	
REZIFE	
LESING	

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: " " " "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: SYNOD HAREM SAILOR NEPHEW
Answer: What an old-fashioned husband expects his wife to do—HELP HIM WITH THE DISHES

Moses eyes another Olympic gold medal

NEW YORK (R) — Twice Olympic gold medal hurdler Edwin Moses will turn 35 years of age in August but he says age is not about to slow down his chase for more gold in the 1992 Barcelona games.

"I know I can still do it and there is no real reason to quit," Moses told Reuters during a recent promotional tour for this summer's Goodwill Games in Seattle.

After dominating the 400-metre hurdles for a decade, Moses settled for bronze at the 1988 Seoul Games and then quit racing all of last year to pursue a graduate university degree, prompting speculation that he was retiring from competition.

"People think I'm retired because of my age, but I've never really mentioned it," the American said. "I've been in shape for 20 years and age doesn't really matter that much and that's what people forget. It is a very realistic goal for a gold (at Barcelona) if I plan my training right."

Moses resumed training in November with solitary daily workouts at the University of California at Irvine. Now concentrating on interval training before stepping up to speed drills, Moses feels no need to rush back.

"The overall philosophy is a three-year programme. This year is not major," said Moses. "Next year I'm in peak condition and the following year is the Olympic year. That's what I'm really looking forward to."

Moses won his first Olympic gold in the 1976 Montreal Games where he also set his first world record. He added the 1984 gold medal in the Los Angeles Games and his 1983 time of 47.02 seconds still stands as the world record. Until he was beaten by compatriot Danny Harris in 1987, Moses enjoyed a streak of 122 consecutive race victories over a 10-year span — a record unparalleled at any distance in modern track.

"No matter what I do in the future, you can't take away any of my accomplishments," said Moses, who will compete in the Goodwill Games. "I've already made by mark and I could walk away anytime and be satisfied."

Ego, however, is still a motivating force.

"The challenge is running against guys who feel you are over the hill. They have always felt because of my age they were going to catch up, so the challenge is to continue to trample on these guys the way I have," said Moses.

Real Madrid clinches league title, turns sights on European Cup

Reuters

Real Madrid predictably wrapped up their fifth consecutive Spanish soccer league title at the weekend and immediately turned their thoughts to lifting the European Cup next season.

Winning the championship has become more of an expectation than a glorious achievement for Real, and if the club's Sunday night celebrations following their title-clinching 0-0 draw at Real Valladolid were somewhat muted, the European obsession is partly to blame.

Both players and British coach John Toshack accepted that they had been certain of winning their 25th championship for some time after opening a nine-point lead over second-placed Atletico Madrid several weeks ago.

Toshack, in his first year in charge at the club, said: "It is not as if there has been another team in a close finish."

"Madrid have proven they have some players who are among the best. We have worked very

seriously. We'll rest for a few days and start planning next season... with the hope of repeating this victory," he added.

Another title would surpass the record five-win sequence by Alfredo Di Stefano's team between 1960-65, repeated in 1975-80. But Toshack and club president Ramon Mendoza would sooner emulate that side's feat of winning the European Cup in 1966 — the last time the club lifted the trophy.

"We shall have to keep on fighting for the European title," said Mendoza.

Captain Miguel added: "We all think of the European Cup, and to get there you first have to win the league."

Another British exile left an indelible mark in the French championship race as champions Marseille climbed above Bordeaux at the top of the league on an Easter weekend which saw most European leagues play Friday and Saturday.

England winger Chris Waddle scored both goals in Marseille's

2-0 home over Bordeaux Saturday which left the Mediterranean club a point clear with a game in hand and favourites to take their second consecutive title.

Marseille will be hoping Waddle can perform as well in Wednesday's European Cup semifinal second leg against Benfica in Portugal where they take a 2-1 lead.

European Cup holders A.C. Milan, who take a 1-0 first leg lead to Bayern Munich Wednesday, remained top of the Italian soccer league on goal difference from Napoli who reduced the margin to three goals with a 3-0 win against Bari Saturday.

A.C. Milan beat Sampdoria 1-0 Friday in their final home game of the season.

Although they were due to play Bari at their San Siro stadium, work on relaying the pitch for the World Cup has forced them to switch the last match to Bologna.

They visit Verona next Sunday while Napoli travel to Bologna and end with a home game against Lazio.

Brazilians shun trappings of stardom

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil's top players are expected to produce some of the most exuberant football at the World Cup finals. But off the field they avoid lifestyles usually associated with stardom.

Most of them dedicate their spare time to their families, invest their money in property and indulge in hobbies such as breeding exotic animals, reading the Bible or collecting cars.

Striker Bebeto's favourite pastime is looking after a mini-zoo at his parents' home in Rio, where he keeps two dogs, several prize-winning cats, turtles and a variety of noisy macaws.

He does not drink or smoke and says he likes to spend his free time with his family.

Bebeto, whose full name is Jose Roberto Gama De Oliveira, was largely unknown outside Brazil until last year when he scored six goals during the South American championship in July and finished the year with 12 goals in 19 games for his country.

The performance earned him the attention of Europe's top clubs and he looks certain to be sold abroad when the contract with his club Vasco Da Gama expires in August. Vasco have placed a \$10 million transfer fee on him.

Originally from Salvador in north-east Brazil, he was brought to Rio by Flamengo in 1983 and stayed there until moving to Vasco last July.

He has used the money made from football to buy a house in Rio for his parents and five brothers and sisters so he can be near them. But he wants to play in Europe "to guarantee my financial independence."

Full-back Mazinho is another who was brought from the north-east to develop his career in Rio. Mazinho left home in the state of Paraiba to complete a trial with Vasco where he has stayed ever since.

Now 23, he has used the money earned from football to help his family improve their standard of living. Mazinho comes from a poor family and said that during his childhood he endured "a lot of suffering."

Like Bebeto, he was unknown outside Brazil until last year's South American championship when he came into the side only because of an injury to first-choice full-back Jorginho.

He is now considered to be one of the team's most important players and is set to join Italian club Pescara after the World Cup.

Also like Bebeto, he prefers a quiet life off the pitch and lists his hobbies as reading, films and playing "foot-volleyball" on the beach.

Mazinho, whose full name is Iomar Do Nascimento, has joined the "Athletes of Christ," a group of footballers who are members of the evangelical church, and he spends a lot of time studying the Bible.

"For me, the nicest things in life are the simple things. With simplicity, you can go a long way," he says. "Everything I earn is for my family."

Antonio De Oliveira Filho, better known as striker Careca, has a passion for cars. At his home in Naples in Italy he keeps a Mercedes Benz and a Renault.

Back in Sao Paulo he has an Opel Diplomat and a Ford Escort XR-3.

But despite his love of cars, he is another who likes to lead a quiet public life away from soccer. "My day to day (life) is very ordinary. When I'm not training, I'm at home," he said.

The remainder of Careca's income is invested in property. He owns six apartments in Sao Paulo, a penthouse in the city of Campinas and land in Ibatuba, on the coast north of Sao Paulo.

"Football has not made me a rich man, but it has helped to guarantee the future of my family," he said.

Regarded as one of the best forwards in the world, Careca is one of Brazil's survivors from the last World Cup.

Waldegard wins Safari Rally for fourth time

NAIROBI (R) — Bjorn Waldegard of Sweden, driving a Toyota Celica, overcame exceptionally muddy conditions to win the Kenya Safari Rally for the fourth time Monday.

Jabu Kankkunen of Finland finished second, 38 minutes behind Waldegard in a Lancia Delta Integrale and Mikael Ericsson of Sweden, in another Toyota, came in third, nearly two hours behind the winner.

Waldegard, winner in 1977, 1984 and 1986, said: "It was the toughest rally ever because of the weather. The roads were tougher. There was more mud than ever, but finally enough, there was not as much rain as expected."

Waldegard has competed 17

times in this six-day 4,000-kilometre rally, one of the toughest in the world, and said he planned to return next year.

"I would love to come back for another rally. Why not take the record for the most wins?" he said.

Kankkunen said he was just happy to have finished — only 10 of the 58 starters survived.

Spaniard Carlos Sainz, making his Safari debut in a Toyota Celica, was fourth and Kenjiro Shinozuka of Japan fifth in a Mitsubishi Galant.

The best-placed Subaru Legacy, making its first world championship appearance, was sixth and driven by Kenyan Jim Heather Hayes.

Four Legacies dropped out be-

cause of mechanical problems, mainly associated with over-heating.

Heather Hayes himself came close to disaster Sunday when a fire broke out under the bonnet of his car. The blaze was caused by a split oil pipe. The crew extinguished the fire and fitted a replacement part dropped from a plane.

Rudi Stohl of Austria in an Audi 90 Quattro passed Kenya's Patrick Njiru in a Subaru Legacy on the final 365-kilometre stage from Nakuru in the Rift Valley to Nairobi to finish seventh.

But Njiru, the top-placed black Kenyan driver and a local hero, was assured of a big welcome for managing eighth position.

Jahangir aims for record ninth British Open title

LONDON (R) — World number one Jahangir Khan is just five matches away from fulfilling his lifelong ambition of winning the British Open Squash Championship for a record ninth successive time.

The Pakistani has not been beaten in the sport's most prestigious tournament since he lost in the 1981 final to Australian Geoff Hunt, whose record eight victories Jahangir equalled last year.

Jahangir went unbeaten for an astonishing five years and seven months after his defeat by Hunt before losing to New Zealander Ross Noman, whom he is scheduled to meet in the Open.

England number nine Jamie Hickox is Jahangir's first round opponent when the top players go into action Wednesday, but his most difficult match in his half of the draw is likely to be against Australian Chris Dittmar, who he is projected to meet in the semifinals.

Dittmar, the number three

seed, beat Jahangir in both the world individual and world team championships at the end of last year, but has been going through troubled times both on and off court this year.

Jahangir will be relieved that Chris Robertson and Rodney Martin, two other Australians who have both beaten him already in 1990, are in the opposite half of the draw.

Robertson and Martin, ranked fourth and fifth in the world respectively, are seeded to meet in the quarter-finals, with the winner almost certain to take on Jahangir Khan, the Pakistani who won the world title for the second time in October.

Surprisingly, the younger Pakistani has never won the British Open title but, should he overcome the very considerable challenge from Robertson or Martin, his remarkable athleticism and super fitness will represent a very serious threat to

Jahangir's domination.

New Zealand's Susan Devoy is seeking her seventh consecutive women's title and is scheduled for a semifinal meeting with Lisa Opie, the Briton she has beaten in two finals.

Opie was runner up on four occasions during the 1980s, but the seedings predict that Devoy's opponent in the 1990 final will be Australian Danielle Drady, the vastly improved girlfriend of Rodney Martin.

Drady is expected to come through to a semifinal against Maritime Le Moignan, Opie's Channel Islands compatriot, who surprisingly beat Devoy in the world championship final in the Netherlands last year.

But the presence of a number of top players seeded outside the top eight, such as England trio Lucy Soutter, Suzanne Horner and Alison Cumings, suggests the women's draw may offer more than its usual quota of upsets.

Jugoplastika go for second European basketball trophy

ZARAGOZA, Spain (R) — Yugoslavia's Jugoplastika aim to remain men's European club basketball champions this week, knowing it could be a long time before they win another major trophy.

The split team could be sadly depleted next year. Dino Radja and Toni Kukoc, two prospects involved in last year's unexpected champions' cup final victory over twice-winners Maccabi Tel Aviv, are expected to look for more lucrative contracts.

The pair are set to play outside Yugoslavia next season unless Jugoplastika can find more than a million dollars to keep them. The team's experienced captain, Dusko Ivanovic, is also tipped to leave and join an Italian or a Spanish team.

The Yugoslav side meet French champions Limoges Tuesday, while Barcelona of Spain play Greece's Aris Salonika in the other semifinal on the same day. The final is Thursday.

With home advantage, Barcelona are highly favoured to win for the first time. The Catalan side was top of the quarter-final groups with a record of 12 wins, including two over Aris, against only two defeats.

After losing in the 1981 final to Squibb Cantu of Italy, they have a chance to emerge from the shadow of Spanish rivals Real Madrid, who have a record seven titles in the competition.

Barcelona's game is based on strong defence and fast counter-attack. Their main asset is free-scoring "Epi" Juan Antonio

together with American Audie Norris, excellent under the baskets.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH

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A LESSON WELL LEARNED

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
 ♠ K 10 9
 ♥ A 10 9 8 2
 ♦ A 3 2
 ♣ K Q

WEST
 ♠ J 2
 ♥ K 4 3
 ♦ J 8 7 5 4
 ♣ 7 5 2

EAST
 ♠ 7 5
 ♥ Q 6
 ♦ K Q 9 6
 ♣ J 10 9 6 4

SOUTH
 ♠ A Q 8 6 4 3
 ♥ J 7 5
 ♦ 10
 ♣ A 8 3

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
 4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ DM
 5 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass
 6 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass
 Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠
 We have remarked before on how often lesson hands turn up at the table. This hand is from the recent Fall North American Championships.

North-South were playing two-over-one responses as a game force. Thus, North's raise to three spades showed a good hand—a jump to four spades would have been a sign-off. After East's lead-directing

double of four diamonds, South's redouble showed second-round control—either the king or a singleton. Four no trump, by partnership agreement, asked South for extra values, and five spades denied any. North, however, had enough to go on to slam.

The contract hinges on losing only one heart trick—something that can be accomplished with two finesses if West has at least one of the missing honors. That was destined to succeed as the cards lie, but declarer, Gary Hann of Ann Arbor, Mich, found the textbook line to guarantee his contract regardless of how the hearts were divided.

The opening diamond lead was taken with the ace and trumps were drawn in two rounds. Dummy's club honors served as entries for two diamond ruffs, and the ace of clubs was cashed to complete stripping the minor suits from both declarer's hand and the table.

With the groundwork laid, declarer simply led a heart and inserted the board's nine. East could win, but he would then either have to yield a ruff-and-shuff by returning a minor, enabling declarer to get rid of a heart, or lead a heart into dummy's tenace. Either way, declarer could claim his slam.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Spanish Embassy in Amman has a vacancy with the following characteristics:

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2. Salary: Assigned by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
3. Conditions of work: as by the Jordanian Legislation.
4. Requirements: a) Experience in attention to the public and messenger. b) Knowledge of Arabic and English or Spanish.
5. Merit: Driving licence for the task of messenger.
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Serious candidates are invited to apply in writing with a C.V. and photo to Department of Personnel, P.O. Box 830536, Amman, not later than May 1, 1990.

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RAIDERS

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

PRINCIPAL

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

Adel Emam
in
Husband under demand
Arabic

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **NIJOUN** Tel: 675571

Farid Shawql, Suhair
Ramzi, Farouq Al Fishawi
in
THE SERVANT
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

TWINS

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30

مكتبة من الكتب

Nepal king dismisses premier, dissolves National Assembly

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepal's King Birendra bowed to a two-month opposition campaign Monday, opening the way to multi-party democracy by abolishing the main elements of the country's partyless political system.

Birendra, one of the world's few absolute monarchs, made his dramatic concessions in a royal proclamation he read on radio after a campaign in which at least 100 people were killed.

The king, who just one week ago legalised political parties banned for 30 years, said he had dismissed his prime minister and dissolved the National Assembly. He also announced the dissolution of the six organisations which underpin the partyless system of councils, or Panchayats. All candidates for Panchayat elections must belong to one of the six organisations which represent special interest groups.

Birendra also dissolved the Panchayat Policy and Evaluation Committee which oversaw the whole system.

The concessions appeared to go most of the way towards meeting the demands of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), which wanted a multi-party system and a constitutional monarchy.

MRD sources, who took part in marathon talks with the government that ended just before dawn in an apparent deadlock, said they were sure opposition leader Ganesh Man Singh would be asked to form the next government.

The MRD had demanded it be allowed to form an interim administration that would pave the way for multi-party elections.

Birendra, who has already promised a constitutional reform commission, made no comment on his own future role.

The king said Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand had been dismissed but would stay on as caretaker premier. He also dissolved the 140-member Rashtriya Panchayat (National Assembly), 28 of whose members he nominated himself with the rest directly elected.

Ganesh Man Singh, 75, leader of the Nepali Congress Party and the one potential premier, said he would accept the king's offer to form the next government.

But the sources said if he was invited to take the job, Singh would be in a position to shape the government even if he did not become prime minister.

The MRD campaign started on Feb. 18 with demonstrations in many of the impoverished kingdom's towns that appeared to take the government by surprise.

The bloodiest day of the campaign was on April 6 when at least 50 people were killed by soldiers who opened fire on thousands of demonstrators marching on the royal palace.

That day's violence produced Birendra's first major concession when he legalised political parties.

Chand, whose predecessor was sacked over the shootings, had been in office just 10 days and MRD sources said it was he who persuaded the king to issue Monday's proclamation.

They said that after a 15-hour meeting with opposition leaders ended just before dawn, Chand talked with his four-man cabinet and prepared a petition which he took to the king.

Until April 6, Birendra and his government had shown no signs of giving into the MRD's demands, saying it contained "anti-national elements" and had been taken over by Communist extremists.

Then Prime Minister Man Singh Shrestha and his colleagues argued that the Panchayat system was democratic and suited Nepal, a patchwork of tribes living in inaccessible mountain areas.

They said a multi-party system would give giant neighbours India and China an easy way to influence the politics of a country that had to struggle hard to maintain a credible independence.

The Nepali Congress Party has close links with India's Congress Party which has ruled that country for all but three years since independence in 1947, although it is currently in opposition.

The Nepali Communist groups allied with Congress in the MRD have links to China.

Nepal's factions had operated fairly openly for most of the 30 years during which parties were banned. They drew their supporters, mostly urban, on to the streets in large numbers during the campaign.

Demonstrations went on until just before the king made his proclamation Monday. A crowd that at one time numbered about 15,000 young radicals surrounded the building where Chand was holding talks with the opposition.

They stoned his car when he tried to leave and later burst into the compound and smashed official cars. The demonstrators let him go only MRD leaders had asked them to go home.

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100 die in Indian train fire

PATNA, India (Agencies) — At least 100 people were feared killed in a fire that swept through two crowded coaches of a commuter train near the north India city of Patna Monday, a senior official said.

District Magistrate S.K. Sharma told reporters 80 bodies had been pulled out of the two badly burned coaches and more were still inside.

A senior railway official said rescue workers believed a cylinder of gas used in welding exploded and caused the inferno.

The train caught fire near a railroad crossing eight kilometres from the centre of Patna, the capital of Bihar, one of India's poorest and most populous states.

A large number of people gathered at the site, hampering rescue work and forcing police to set up loudspeakers and issue appeals for people to leave the area, witnesses said.

Meanwhile, soldiers searched door-to-door for Muslim militants Monday, the 10th consecutive day of an around-the-clock curfew banning civilians from leaving their homes.

The government imposed the curfew on April 6 after three people were kidnapped by Muslim militants demanding secession of the Kashmir Valley from Hindu-majority India.

All three were shot and killed when the government failed to respond to the kidnappers' demands of freedom for three jailed colleagues.

Since then, Srinagar has been under tight military control.

On Monday, the government announced a two-hour lifting of curfew in the Civil Lines district, which has many shops, but witnesses said most shops were closed because their owners lived in areas where the curfew was not lifted.

In one district the troops were seen forcing a group of men to perform a crouching, knee-bend exercise with heavy stones on their backs.

"None of them are militants," said one witness. "But this will make them militants. We thought the Indian army was disciplined, but we were wrong."

He and other witnesses, all of whom spoke on condition of

anonymity, said they were too far away to know what provoked the troops' action.

The insurgency in the Kashmir Valley has claimed at least 270 lives since the government cracked down on the Muslim movement on Jan. 20. Most of the deaths came in confrontations between security forces and the militants.

The independence movement has also increased tensions between India and Pakistan, which have fought two wars over the valley since both countries gained independence from Britain in 1947.

On Saturday, Prime Minister V.P. Singh said Pakistan was gearing up for war, and Pakistan's Foreign Ministry reported that the statement proved that India was trying to provoke a war.

When India and Pakistan were carved out of the formerly British-ruled subcontinent, the Hindu ruler of Muslim-dominated Kashmir opted for union with largely Hindu India. Other Muslim-majority provinces went to Islamic Pakistan.

The women modelled in swimsuits, evening dress, and traditional costumes for a 12-member panel of judges. The Soviet Union, competing for the first time, was represented by Evia Stalbovska. "I will try to make girls believe this is more than a beauty contest, and that you have to be something more than empty inside to win this," said the 19-year-old Miss Universe. Miss Grudt said she wants to work as a pediatric nurse and "help the poor children in Africa."

Miss Grudt's mother, Margit Grudt, contacted by telephone in Hell, said: "We're very surprised and happy. We hope it will bring her many chances to travel and do something for other people."

Leaping cow crushes governor's car

ANKARA (R) — A cow destined for a Turkish slaughter house leapt from a lorry on to the roof of a car carrying a provincial governor, crushing it and injuring the occupants, the popular daily Gumaydin said Monday. The governor of Western Muga province Erol Cakir, his wife, driver and security guard suffered slight injuries but the car was almost a total loss, it said.

Thailand worker cuts off organ because wife left him

BAHRAIN (R) — A Thai construction worker in Bahrain, depressed that his wife had left him, cut off his penis. Consultant urologist Dr. Mohammad Durazi told Reuters his friends discovered him bleeding, put his severed penis in a bottle of water and drove it to him to hospital. Durazi said he took three hours to sew the penis on again in "The organ is functioning well," he added. "He is much better now, talking and smiling with his friends."

3 children kill wife-beating father

SEOUL (R) — Three school children stabbed and clubbed to death their drunken father who was beating his wife, police said. Kang Kyu-Son, 40, was knocked down with baseball bat wielded by his ten-year-old son as he was battering his wife, and was then attacked by his two daughters aged 12 and 13. The elder daughter stabbed Kang in the throat and chest seven times with a kitchen knife while the younger one hit him with a chopping board and a pan, police said.

N. Ireland drunk drivers face tough crackdown

BELFAST (R) — Convicted drunk drivers in Northern Ireland will have to pass another driving test before being allowed back behind the wheel and then drive at a restricted speed for a year, displaying a special car plate. "There are too many people who cannot separate the throttle from the bottle," Northern Ireland Transport Minister Peter Bottomley said on announcing the tough proposals Thursday. The special car plate will designate that the driver is limited to a top speed of 72 kilometres per hour. Traffic accidents in Northern Ireland account annually for twice as many deaths as the province's sectarian and political conflict. The death toll on the roads averages about 200 a year. Bottomley, who plans to have the new restrictions in force by Christmas, said: "We don't want to stop people drinking. We don't want to stop people drinking. We just don't want them to do the two together."

Roh, Takeshita discuss improving legal status of Koreans in Japan

SEOUL (AP) — Former Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita met with President Roh Tae-woo and other South Korean leaders Monday and promised efforts to improve the legal status of Korean residents in Japan.

Roh urged that the legal status of third-generation Koreans living in Japan be resolved by the end of the year, a deadline set earlier by both governments.

"I hope this question will not be raised again after the deadline," Roh told Takeshita over lunch at the presidential mansion, according to an aide. The aide quoted Roh as saying settlement of the issue was necessary for more cooperative Korea-Japan relations.

About 40 protesters with placards reading "war criminal Japan, reflect upon yourself," tried to march to the Blue House presidential mansion but were blocked by about 150 plainclothes police.

Police confiscated sashes and placards and hauled the group away in police buses. The group said they were family members of Korean victims of World War II and demanded a meeting with Takeshita.

We oppose to the death the president's Japan visit without a postwar settlement," some shouted. It was not known if Takeshita saw the protest.

Roh is scheduled to visit Tokyo in May, but some Koreans have been angered that he would do so

prior to a settlement of the legal status of Koreans living there.

It was not known whether Takeshita and Roh discussed the proposed visit.

The presidential aide, requesting anonymity, said Roh told Takeshita that bad feelings still existed among Koreans over "two unfortunate incidents" and the feelings would be diluted if the two governments settled the issue.

The two incidents referred to the 1992 Japanese invasion of Korea and Japan's 35-year colonial rule of Korea which ended in 1945 at the end of World War II.

The former prime minister is visiting South Korea as the Japanese president of the Korea-Japan Parliamentary Union.

6 people win environmental prizes

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — A Kenyan who walked thousands of miles to save black rhinos and a Hungarian writer fired for challenging plans to dam the Danube River were among six people named Monday to share a \$360,000 environmental prize.

The newly-established \$60,000 individual awards are to be given annually by the Goldman Environmental Foundation, founded by two San Francisco philanthropists, Richard and Rhoda Goldman.

The winners, nominated by 15 leading international environmental groups, were:

— Michael Werlikhe, who has walked thousands of kilometres across Africa and Europe since 1982 to raise funds used to save the black rhinoceros from extinction.

— Janos Vargha, who lost his job at a major scientific magazine

after he became a leader in the movement to halt the \$3 billion Nagymaros hydroelectric project on the Danube.

— Harrison Ngau, of Malaysia, a leader in a movement to prevent the loss of Malaysian rainforests. Because of his activities, he was jailed for 60 days in 1987 and then barred until June 1989 from engaging in further political action.

— Bob Brown, an Australian physician who gave up his medical practice to help found the Tasmanian Wilderness Society and prevent the damming of one of Australia's last free-flowing rivers.

— Janet Gibson, a biologist and vice-president of the Belize Audubon Society who led the fight to protect a 200-kilometre-long barrier reef off the coast of the Central American country.

— Lois Gibbs, a housewife who sounded the alarm over the dumping of 22,000 tonnes of toxic waste in New York state's Love Canal. Her work resulted in the evacuation of 810 families from their homes and inspired grassroots environmental campaigns elsewhere in the United States.

The foundation released statements from several world leaders who praised the decision to give the awards.

"As the governments of the world join together in addressing the cumulative impacts of man's activities on the planet, it is important that we not lose sight of the positive role individuals can play," said President George Bush.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said: "We all have a responsibility to ensure that the delicate balance of nature on our planet is left intact for our children and our grandchildren."

Greta Garbo dies

NEW YORK (AP) — Greta Garbo, the husky-voiced Swedish-born screen legend who turned her back on Hollywood in 1941 but never faded in the public's imagination, is dead at 84.

The reclusive Garbo died Sunday, said Andrew Banoff, spokesman for New York Hospital. At her family's request, Banoff gave no other information except that donations in her memory could be made to a kidney treatment centre at the hospital.

Banoff said he didn't know who the family members were who requested details be withheld, but neighbours said she had a niece. He said services would be private.

Ben Buttenweiser, who lived in an apartment below Garbo's, said the actress had undergone dialysis treatment.

With her sculpted beauty, Garbo first gained attention in silent films. When talkies came along, Hollywood worried that her accent and throaty voice would end her career, but they only enhanced her appeal. She became an international sensation with such films as *Anna Christie*, *Mata Hari*, *Grand Hotel* and *Queen Christina*.

She reigned in Hollywood in the '30s. Public response to her face and her lithe figure in silky hatter gowns was so frenzied that the phenomenon had a name: "Garbomania." Some critics considered her the finest screen actress of all time.

But Garbo disliked the attention and quit at age 36. Her 24 films — including the festival standards *Camille* and *Ninotchka* — kept her name alive for generations, the woman known worldwide simply as Garbo remained practically shuttered in her Manhattan apartment, where she

moved after becoming a U.S. citizen in 1951. She also hid in various retreats in France and Switzerland.

When she travelled, she slipped in and out of airports in dark glasses and a slouch hat. "Garbo watchers" would wait hours outside her apartment, hoping to catch a glimpse of her. Photographers who stalked her occasionally stole a quick shot of "the face."

In Grand Hotel, one of her lines was, "I want to be alone. Legend has it she used it on reporters who dogged her. But she denied it, telling a friend she actually had said, "I want to be let alone."

Nominated four times for an Academy Award, she didn't win until 1955, when the academy gave her a special Oscar for "a series of luminous and unforgettable performances." Garbo did not appear to collect it.

"As an actress and as a person she had this very special thing about her that I think sort of set her apart," Actor Jimmy Stewart said. "It was a combination of the way she looked, her voice and the beautiful way she moved."

"I think her mystique was her privacy," comedian Milton Berle said.

She never married, but rumours of her love affairs with rich and famous men were abundant. Over the years, she was linked with actor John Gilbert, maestro Leopold Stokowski and Russian-born entrepreneur George Schlee.

In comments published in Life magazine in 1989, Garbo described herself as a "sour little creature."

"I don't want any kind of attention from anybody, except that I know that someone likes me, and that's nice. Otherwise, it's sickening," she said.

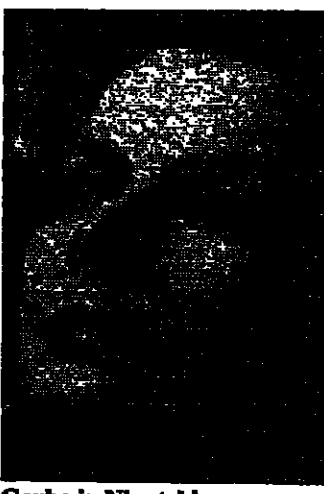
In the rare interviews she gave, she said "you cheapen yourself" in telling others "your private joys and sorrows." She said she preferred to let her work speak for itself.

Neighbour Buttenweiser, who said he knew Garbo for 35 years, said he sometimes discussed world developments with her but that she would not talk about her film career.

Carl Peterson, a doorman in her building, said he last saw her last week. "She had grey hair and was very thin. She looked very pathetic," he said.

Born Greta Lovisa Gustafsson in Stockholm, Garbo was the daughter of an uneducated labourer who was often ill or unemployed. After her father died when she was 14, she left school and earned \$25 a month as a department store clerk.

While clerking, she was chosen to appear in a filmed ad advertisement. The 17-year-old was stagestruck and enrolled in Stockholm's Royal Dramatic Theatre Academy. She won several small parts, the first in a 1923 comedy, "Peter the Tramp."



Garbo in *Ninotchka*

Nordic countries urge more states to accede to Non-Proliferation Treaty

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — In January and February, Nordic diplomats approached the countries which are not signatories to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to encourage them to accede to it. These approaches were made in the context of the fourth review conference of the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) which is to be held in Geneva from Aug. 20 to Sept. 14, 1990.

In acceding to the NPT, non-nuclear-weapon states undertake not to acquire such weapons.

To date, 140 countries are signatories to the NPT. However, the Nordic countries are concerned that several major countries have still not signed the treaty. This applies to nuclear-weapon states such as France and China and several threshold states which are considered to have the capacity to manufacture nuclear weapons.

In the Nordic countries' view, it is of great importance that the review conference should result in a confirmation and a reinforcement of the authority of the treaty. Confirmation and reinforcement of the treaty are particularly vital in view of the fact that the contracting parties are to take a decision on an extension of the treaty in 1995.

The Nordic countries intend to present a memorandum to the NPT's fourth review conference, giving their views on the NPT and its importance for international security.

The NPT is one of the most important international arms control agreements and the most far-reaching. Since the NPT came into force in 1970, no non-nuclear-weapon state party to it has acquired nuclear weapons.

In the treaty, nuclear-weapon states (the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union) have pledged to negotiate on nuclear-weapon disarmament and a stop to the nuclear arms race.

By virtually all accounts only a few of the estimated 10,000 rebels remain in the camps with the remainder having crossed the border into Nicaragua, where the contras have fought with U.S. backing to oust the left-wing Sandinistas.

Sporadic clashes continue between the contra and Sandinista forces, with each side accusing the other of violating a unilateral ceasefire.

Contras seized a section of highway within 100 kilometres of Managua during the Easter holy week, but were repulsed by government forces, the Nicaraguan Defence Ministry said.

The Sandinistas — defeated by Chamorro in the Feb. 25 elections — have talked at what they say are rebel attempts to place conditions on their disarmament, warning contra "blackmail" could lead the country into civil war.

On Wednesday contras still in camps in neighbouring Honduras will hand over weapons to United Nations officials in what one U.S. diplomat said would be an event of "very, very high symbolic value."

Guerrillas in the hills of northern Nicaragua are calling for their Sandinista foes to lay down their weapons first and Sandinista government officials have warned that civil war could flare again if the rebels are not quickly disarmed.

The right-wing contras have said their fighters will keep their weapons until top Sandinista military chiefs step down.

But the Sandinistas have insisted that they will keep their loyal army intact after April 25, when they handover government

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF